



SC dismisses plea by Tarun Tejpal to quash charges of rape
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Former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra passes away
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NEARBY



Death toll 38 as rain lashes northern States

CHANDIGARH Rain in the northern States claimed at least 38 lives and triggered landslides that left hundreds of people in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh stranded and several areas in Punjab, Haryana and Jammu flooded. Three more people were reported dead in Himachal Pradesh where heavy rain over the weekend has caused floods and landslides, increasing the toll to 25. In neighbouring Uttarakhand, the death toll climbed to 12 with two more bodies being recovered on Monday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Yamuna crosses danger mark, old bridge closed

NEW DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday appealed to the residents of the Yamuna floodplains to shift to government tents as the river water level breached the danger mark, adding that the next two days were "critical". Traffic movement on the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as the 'Lohe Ka Pul', was closed in view of the rising water level. More than 23,800 people will be required to be moved out from low-lying areas, according to official estimates.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Reduce tensions with Pakistan: Trump

Modi says extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by certain leaders won't help

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
WASHINGTON DC/NEW DELHI

In a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump sought reduction of tensions between India and Pakistan, the White House said in a statement.

During the 30-minute conversation, the two leaders also discussed regional developments and the ways to "strengthen U.S.-India economic ties through increased trade," the statement said.

"The President conveyed the importance of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan and maintaining peace in the region," the White House said.



The President conveyed the importance of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan and maintaining peace in the region. The two leaders also discussed ways to strengthen the U.S.-India economic ties through increased trade

THE WHITE HOUSE
In the context of the regional situation, the Prime Minister stated that extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region were not conducive to peace



The call comes close on the heels of a telephonic conversation on Friday between Mr. Trump and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. Mr. Khan had spoken to Mr. Trump on the same morning as a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting was being held to discuss Kash-

mir and India's dilution of Article 370 (special status for Kashmir). On his part, Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump on Monday that encouraging anti-India violence would not ensure regional peace. The Trump-Modi telephonic conversation is the first direct

communication between the two leaders since India ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5.

'Not conducive to peace'

"In the context of the regional situation, the Prime Minister stated that extreme rhetoric and incitement to

anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region were not conducive to peace," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on the conversation, without referring to Pakistan.

"The two leaders recounted the June meeting in Japan's Osaka where they participated in the G20 summit.

"He [the Prime Minister] highlighted the importance of creating an environment free from terror and violence and eschewing cross-border terrorism without exception," the Ministry of External Affairs said, summing up Mr. Modi's message during the conversation.

In Monday's conversation, both leaders also discussed the Afghan scenario.



Back to school: Students at a school that re-opened in Rajoji district on Monday. ■ANI

Attendance thin as J&K schools reopen

Top leaders remain under detention

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A very thin attendance of students marked the first day of the reopening of primary schools in Kashmir on Monday, the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, which was followed by a large-scale security clampdown in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The attendance of students was thin but the staff presence was 30 to 40% in the capital Srinagar. The situation by and large remains normal and people continue to offer their cooperation. There was no untoward incident in Jammu," Information Director Syed Sehrish Asghar said.

Director of Education Younis Malik admitted that there was "nil to thin attendance" in a majority of

schools in Kashmir. "Of the 196 primary schools opened, 72 schools registered a thin attendance of students," he said.

All top schools such as Delhi Public School, Presentation Convent and Burnhall School reopened but no students attended the classes.

Mr. Malik said Budgam district saw only 35 schools opening, with students' attendance between 4 and 12%. Baramulla saw opening of 322 schools out of 671 with 40% staff presence and only 20% students' presence; Kupwara's 137 schools saw attendance of about 1,000 students; and Bandipora's 207 schools saw 10 to 12% attendance.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
COMMUNITIES PUSH FOR DOMICILE LAWS ▶ PAGE 13

NRC issues may be tackled via legislative route

Assam Chief Minister says any decision can be taken after the list is published on August 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal indicated on Monday that any decision to challenge the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the legislative route could be discussed in future.

"In a democracy, everyone has the right to ask questions. After the publication of the NRC on August

31, if necessary, we will take whatever steps will be required," he said, asked whether the government was exploring any legislative options to delay the publication.

Both the Centre and the State have moved the Supreme Court for re-verification of the documents of 20% of the 3.29 crore applicants in areas bordering Bangladesh as they suspect

wrongful inclusions and exclusions.

Mr. Sonowal, who had an hour-long meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, said that as per the directions of the court, the NRC would be published by August 31 and both the State and Central governments would ensure that it was conducted peacefully.

Millions are set to lose citizenship after the publica-

tion of the final list. The register, first published in Assam in 1951, is being updated as per the court directions.

It is a list to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971.

The Supreme Court has, in the past fortnight, twice rejected the State's and the Home Ministry's plea for re-

verification.

Around 41 lakh people have been excluded from the draft lists published in July 2018 and June this year. Around 36 lakh have filed claims against their exclusion and objections have been filed against two lakh inclusions. The hearing of these claims and objections are underway at various NRC centres.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

+ Oppn. slams Bhagwat for reservation remarks

It is an unnecessary row, says RSS; no need to have a debate, says Athawale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Monday accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of being an organisation with an "anti-Dalit mindset" after RSS Sarsanghchalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat sought a "harmonious conversation" on the issue of reservation.

BSP chief Mayawati asked the RSS to shed its "anti-reservation mindset," while the Congress said the statement had exposed the "anti-



Mayawati says the remarks have created suspicion.

Dalit-backward face" of the BJP and the RSS.

It's an unnecessary row, the RSS said, as it "supported reservation."

BJP ally Ramdas Athawale, who is also the junior minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, asserted that there was no need to have a debate on reservation. Ms. Mayawati, however, said Mr. Bhagwat's remarks created "suspicion and doubt".

"The RSS saying that there should be open-hearted debate pertaining to reservation given to SC/ST/OBC, generates dangerous situation of doubt, which is

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Kashmiri doctor denied room in city

HEMAMI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old Kashmiri doctor was allegedly denied a room by an online hotel aggregator in Jasola Vihar on Saturday night after the manager checked his Aadhaar details.

OYO Rooms said they have taken disciplinary action against the hotel manager.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

Unnao: CBI gets 14 days more

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the CBI two more weeks to complete investigation into a road accident that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer critical and instantly killed two women relatives travelling with them. The court was informed by the CBI that the girl and the lawyer continue to be in a critical stage at AIIMS here and their statements were yet to be recorded.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF

Cloudy skies today, forecasts Met Dept.

NEW DELHI
The Met Department has forecast generally cloudy skies for August 20, with possibility of very light rain/thundershowers. The maximum temperature was recorded at 34.4 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 23.6 degrees Celsius on Monday. The maximum was three degrees above normal. The Safdarjung observatory did not record any rain.

'Monitor plan to curb vector-borne diseases'

NEW DELHI
The Directorate of Education has directed all heads of schools to designate a nodal officer/teacher in their institution to monitor the implementation of the plan to prevent and control the spread of vector-borne diseases this season. Plans have been put in place to ensure possible sites are checked to prevent mosquito breeding. The nodal officer has been asked to send a week-wise report of the measures taken.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	81	Gurugram	57
Ghaziabad	93	Faridabad	-
Noida	91	Greater Noida	109
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

SpiceJet to shift flight operations from T2 to T3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet will shift its domestic flight operations from Terminal 2 to Terminal 3 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport from September 5. The move will allow the airport operator to undertake expansion works.

IndiGo, too, will be shifting some of its flights from T2 to T3. As a result, its domestic flights will operate from all three terminals at the airport – T1, T2 and T3. GoAir will continue to have all its domestic flights operate from T2, airport operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said in a press statement.

IndiGo flights of 5000 series will shift from T2 to T3.

After the completion of expansion works, the capacity of T2 will be enhanced to 18 million passengers per annum (MPPA), up from the current 15 mppa. The works will entail expansion of security hold area and passenger waiting area and relocation of pre-embarkation security check area.

Residents on Yamuna floodplains urged to move to safety

Kejriwal says govt. ready to deal with any situation as river breaches danger mark

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday appealed to the residents of the Yamuna floodplains to shift to government tents, as the river water level breached the danger mark, adding that the next two days were "critical".

Traffic movement on the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as 'Lohe Ka Pul', was closed in view of the rising water level. Mr. Kejriwal asserted that the government was ready to deal with any situation that may arise.

The water level in the Yamuna, Mr. Kejriwal said, was expected to cross the danger mark of 205.33 metres by Monday evening since Haryana had released 8.28 lakh cusecs of water on Sunday evening and the excess water would reach the Capital within 36 to 72 hours.

He also held meeting with Ministers and top government officers to assess the situation and review arrangements.

Mr. Kejriwal said, in 2013, Haryana had released 8.06 lakh cusecs of water which led to a rise in the water level of the Yamuna to 207.32 metres.

So far, 2,120 temporary shelters have been set up with food, water and other amenities by government agencies.

More than 23,800 people will be required to be moved out from low-lying areas, ac-



People living in low-lying areas take refuge in temporary tents set up by the government, on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

cording to official estimates.

The river was flowing at 205.2 metres in Delhi at 3 p.m. Haryana released 1.87 lakh cusecs water at 2 p.m. on Monday and 1.79 lakh cusecs was discharged from Hathini Kund barrage at 3 p.m.

'No need to panic'

Mr. Kejriwal said there was no need for people to panic but those living in low-lying areas needed to shift to temporary shelters. He also urged parents not to allow their children near the river or go swimming or bathing in the swelling waters.

On guard



2,120 tents with facilities like electricity, water, food and toilets arranged



53 boats ready for rescue operations



30 boats ready in **30 locations** where more impact of the flood is anticipated

SDM Preet Vihar, the nodal officer of the control room, can be contacted at **011-21210849**

Delhi govt. sets up emergency number **011-22421656**

He also said that the Delhi government was coordinating with the Central government and the Lieutenant-Governor's office and all agencies concerned. "The entire government machinery is focused in tackling this emergency situation in the next two days as every life is precious for the government," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Saving vegetables, plants before the swelling river devours it all

People living on flood-prone areas know the yearly drill

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Around 7 a.m. on Monday, when the police came to 32-year-old Prem Shankar's shack on the Yamuna floodplains close to the Old Iron Bridge, his family knew the drill – pack their belongings, carry them on their head, walk to temporary tents set up by the government next to the bridge. They have been doing it for the last few years.

But after the police left, Mr. Shankar, a father of four, had tea and left for his field with his wife and elder daughter. When the family finally moved out at 5 p.m., there was ankle-deep water in the fields. "We plucked as much vegetables as we could and left the rest. Forty kilogram of bhindi, 40 kg of mirchi and about 20 kg of muli," he said around 6.30 p.m., pointing to the vegetables spread on a white plastic, next to the bridge, a small vegetable market.

Hundreds of people, who live in the Yamuna floodplains, are being shifted to higher grounds, where the government has erected tents. People, who live here, mainly grow vegetables and

We have been telling them since morning to move to the tent, but they want to save their plants. We are standing here to make sure that they move out soon

TUSHAR THAKUR
Police constable

rear cattle for a living. As people move out of their houses, they carry all their belongings and try to save even vegetables and plants in the fields.

At the floodplains near Geeta Colony, Reshamvati, 40, was carrying her belongings from her shack to the tent. She puts them down next to the cloth bundles carrying brinjals which she had plucked from the field before leaving.

Around 7.15 p.m., close to Mr. Shankar's shack, which has now been flooded, Tushar Thakur, 21, a police constable and his colleague were standing guard to a group of men and women – the Yamuna water had entered the area and was inches away from the policemen's shoes.

The group of people, who run a nursery in the area, were shifting hundreds of potted plants to higher grounds as the policemen waited. "We have been telling them since morning to move to the tent, but they want to save their plants. Now it's getting dark and shifting the people will become difficult. We are standing here to make sure that they move to the tent soon," Mr. Thakur said.

Kamal Singh, 32, who was shifting the plants said that he was the fourth generation of his family, who was living here. "Every year it floods here and the place where we are keeping the pots is a safe area," he said, adding that though they managed to save almost all the potted plants, the once on the ground have been submerged by water.

Demand compensation
Shankar's brother, Chetan Swarup, 40, said, "I used to live here and every year it is the same drama and you won't be able to save any money, so I moved out. The government does not give us any money. They should give us compensation."

Over a dozen projects to clean Yamuna get DJB nod

Green light to several other projects too

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Monday approved over a dozen projects, aimed at cleaning the Yamuna and rejuvenation of waterbodies, among others.

The DJB approved extension of a scheme for regularisation of unauthorised water connection at ₹500 per connection for domestic consumers till March 2020.

Safety kits

The board also approved the procurement of 4,000 safety kits for the DJB and private labourers engaged in desilting, cleaning of sewers, drains and septic tanks.

This was announced earlier by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The kit will comprise hand gloves, gum boots, helmet, safety belts, fluorescent jackets, torch, litmus papers etc.," an official statement said.

The DJB also gave its nod

for rejuvenation of 12 waterbodies using Phytorid Treatment Technology.

The board also approved rejuvenation of a lake. "Rejuvenation of Satpula Lake near District Court Saket by filling the treated effluent, after treating the sewer flowing in the drain by constructing a treatment plant of capacity 4.6 MLD (million litres per day) to obtain the desired parameters of treated effluent. The revamped lake will help recharge the groundwater by extensive use of rainwater," the statement said.

To clean Yamuna, the DJB approved construction of a 25-MLD waste-water treatment plant for rejuvenation of Timarpur oxidation pond and laying of sewer line in Sadh Nagar Colony in Palam constituency among others.

The DJB has already taken up work to rejuvenate 155 water bodies under a project approved in December 2018.

As they continued with their daily routine and various agencies visited to discuss the issue, the water level continued to submerge the concrete steps at the ghats. The river, which had crossed the 204.88-metre warning level for flooding at 11 a.m. on Monday, officially breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres by 6 p.m.

"Even if we were to leave, someone will have to stay with all our belongings to ensure safety," said Sunil Sharma, a pandit, who resides at the ghats, adding that residents had been verbally assured that there was nothing to worry.

Mr. Sharma is also the cashier of the Yamuna Ghats Panda Association which, in a request to the sub-division-

Life continues unhindered on the ghats

Our problem is with the silt the water will leave behind once it recedes, says a resident

AARUSHI AGGARWAL
NEW DELHI



The Old Iron Bridge was closed to traffic as the Yamuna breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres by 6 p.m. on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

al magistrate, asked for temporary tents with accompanying toilets, electricity, drinking water and doctors in the area. The provisions started to arrive only at 4.30 p.m. on Monday. Not all residents were aware of the provision for tents.

Ram Kumari, 58, who lives

with her 12-member family at ghat number 24, said, "If there is a flood, we will move with our stuff to our roof. The government has never helped us and is unlikely to help in the future too. They'll come once our stuff is ruined. We have to take care of ourselves."

A resident of the lowest ghat said that not once had she moved to the tents in her 25 years of living at these ghats.

"There are losses every year. How much can we protect? One does feel scared when it floods but there is nothing to do," she said.

Sumit Sharma, a young pandit who inhabits a house in ghat number 22, said, "We'll only leave if the water rises beyond one level. Otherwise, we will stay here."

At Sumit Sharma's ghat number 22, over 100 yatris had stopped by to bathe in the Yamuna before travelling to Rajasthan. With more annual visits scheduled for this time of the year, the situation would only get more complicated.

Accomplished swimmers
The actual flooding, according to Mr. Sharma, didn't bother residents as much as its aftermath.

"We don't have a problem with the flood. Everyone here knows how to swim since they were children. Our problem is with the silt the water will leave behind once it recedes. We cannot clean it and the government lets it sit for two months, spreading malaria and other diseases." Life, he added, was in the hands of God and land was in the hands of the government.

Inquiry into auto-tipper hiring ordered

SDMC panel chief writes to CVC alleging discrepancies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An inquiry into the hiring of auto-tippers in the Nafajgarh zone of South Delhi Municipal Corporation was ordered by its standing committee chairperson, Bupendra Gupta on Monday.

In a letter to the Central

Vigilance Commission (CVC), Mr. Gupta alleged several discrepancies in the hiring of up to 46 auto-tippers in the said zone.

These include alleged non-disclosure of the "net rate of hiring", discrepancies in the rate of hiring tipplers from two contractors,

extension of the contract leading to an alleged loss of ₹7.60 crore to the corporation and allegedly not having invited tenders for the same.

Probe demand

In his letter to the CVC, Mr. Gupta called for an inquiry against erring officials.

Cell tower companies to get show-cause notices

SDMC to issue notice to erring firms over dues to be paid for putting up towers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Sealing notices to cell tower companies for running illegal structures in south Delhi will be issued by the first week of September, Standing Committee chairperson of the SDMC Bhupender Gupta said on Monday.

While a show-cause notice will first be issued to erring companies with regard to the dues they are supposed to pay to the municipal corporation for illegally putting up towers, action will be taken against those failing to comply with the notices, he said.

In a drive, municipal officials of all zones have managed to identify cell towers running in their jurisdiction with and without permission.

Discrepancies in the data being provided by the firms and the one available with the corporation was making

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Students protest introduction of semester system in open school

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Students under the banner of Kranti Yuva Sangharsh (KYS) on Monday protested against the introduction of semester



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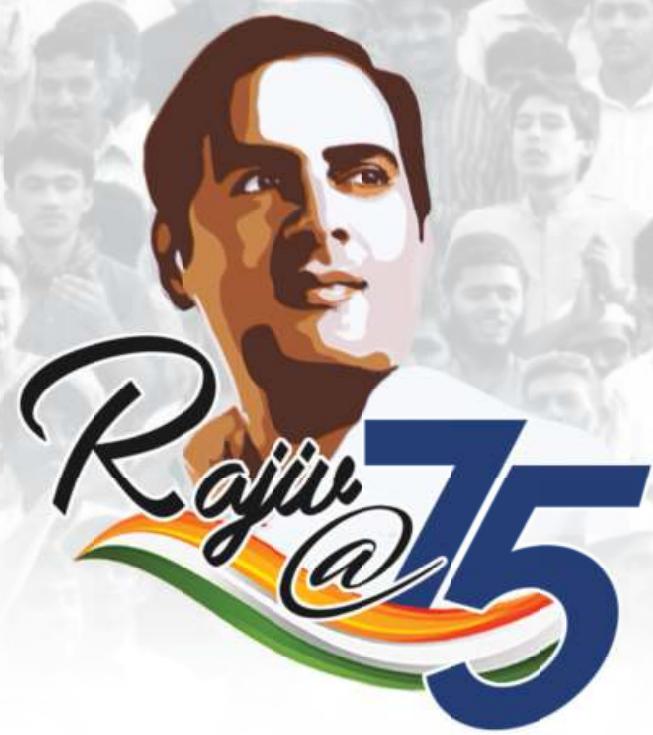
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Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Man thrashes senior citizen, molests his daughter Accused along with his friends also roughed up sexagenarian's family members

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 63-year-old man and his family were thrashed while his daughter was molested allegedly by a 20-year-old neighbour and his friends in east Delhi's Preet Vihar on Thursday night, the police said on Monday.

Accused held

The prime accused has been arrested, they said. DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said on

the night of August 15, the senior citizen had gone to a nearby shop when the accused, Karan, a sanitation worker, came to the shop. "The duo fought over who will get the grocery first. Karan started abusing the victim when the argument turned violent," Mr. Singh said.

The victim's daughter then came to his rescue when the accused touched her inappropriately and also

thrashed her. Following this, the victim's family members came to the spot. Karan then got two of his friends and a fight broke out between the two sides. The victim then left the spot and rushed to their house when Karan and his friends entered and thrashed them, the 63-year-old told the police. A case has been registered under Sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (punishment for wrong-

ful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 448 (punishment for house-trespass) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC. "Karan was arrested on Friday and produced before the court. He was released on bail," Mr. Singh added.

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The details can be viewed and downloaded from the following website.

www.mahapwd.com
<https://mahatenders.gov.in>

**sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division Beed**

DGIPR/2019/2020/2027

**HAFFKINE BIO PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATION LIMITED
(Procurement Cell)
Tel No. 022-24100478
E-mail- procurementcell@vaccinehaffkine.com
Acharya Donde Marg, Parel Mumbai 400 012 (INDIA)
TENDER NOTICE**

Date: 09/08/2019,

Managing Director (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Description	Period of Sale and Preparation of bid & bid Bid submission	Bid Opening
1	E-1664	Tablet-Capsule Phase 1	From 14.08.2019 10.00 am to 03.09.2019 upto 14.00 hrs.	05.09.2019 at 14.01 hrs.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.

Website : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Contact No.1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985, +91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91-7878007973

Email — eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in

**sd/-
(Dr. R M Kumbhar)
General Manager-1**

**Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd.
(Procurement Cell). Mumbai**

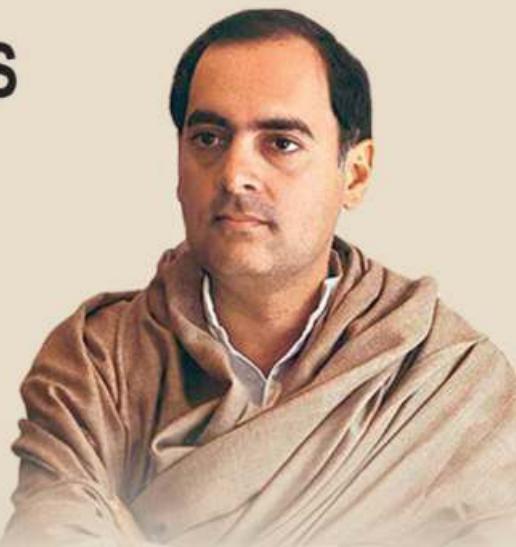
DGIPR/2019/2020/2037

SADBHAVANA DIVAS

20 August 2019

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ON HIS
75th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**



- Turned Mahatma Gandhi's 'Dream-India' in to a reality
- Amended constitution to strengthen Panchayat Raj
- Empowered youth with voting rights from 18 years of age
- Universal immunisation programme to create a healthier India
- Revolutionised new India by introducing IT
- Enabled installation of India's first Super computer Param 8000
- Revamped primary education through operation Black-board

**Anniversary events**

- Memorial programmes in Tribal areas Kulhadighat and Dugli
- Gram sabha to be conducted in all village panchayats
- Various programmes will be organised in schools till 2nd oct 2019
- Plantation drive in all Navodaya Vidyalayas
- Marathon at Raipur & other programmes in districts
- Exhibition by Public Relations Department at Raipur

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CM
YK

OYO denies room to Kashmiri, cites 'WhatsApp text from govt' as reason

Action will be taken against manager of the hotel in Jasola Vihar, says company

HEMANI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old Kashmiri doctor was allegedly denied a room by an online hotel aggregator in Jasola Vihar on Saturday night after the manager checked his Aadhaar details.

CThe manager said they received a few WhatsApp messages from the government stating that people from Jammu and Kashmir should not be allowed in their hotels

MALIK AABID
Victim's friend

vernment stating that people from Jammu and Kashmir should not be allowed in their hotels. I also spoke to the person whom the manager had called and he too said the same," Mr. Aabid said.

After "trying to put sense into the manager", the two friends left the property and went to another friend's house where the doctor is now staying. "I didn't book another place because I was not sure whether they would allow my friend," he said, adding that they were shocked as something like this had never happened with them or with any of their friends.

Malik

friend then produced his Aadhaar card which had his Jammu and Kashmir address. "The manager's expressions changed and he made a call to someone. Over the phone, he was seen asking permission to allow a Kashmiri man. The person on the other side denied permission. The manager then said they have received a few WhatsApp messages which were apparently from the go-

tract with asset owners."

An OYO employee, on the condition of anonymity, said disciplinary action has been taken against the manager and he has been instructed to "verify the source and authenticity of such messages before any such action".

Hotels in Paharganj

The Hindu visited a few other OYO hotels and a number of others in Paharganj where the owners said they have been accepting residents from the Valley as long as they have valid identity proof, which is applicable to all customers.

However, an employee of one Avtar Hotel was reluctant to accept a Kashmiri customer.

"Beat officers have asked us not to entertain people from Kashmir, Nepal and Bangladesh around August 15," he alleged.

He then called another person and sought permission for the same after which he agreed.

NCCI writes to Modi seeking relief for MSMEs

'Unable to pay existing loans, government liabilities due to financial constraints'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

The NCR Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) "are on verge of closure and need urgent attention" and sought relief for them.

In a six-page letter to the PMO, the NCCI said the MSMEs were under acute financial crunch and needed more liquidity, adding that they were not able to pay the existing loans, govern-

ment liabilities and defaulting on the payments due to financial constraints.

"The fact is that due to demonetisation and GST implementation, the financial health of MSMEs has become pitiable and so they are not able to sustain properly. They are struggling with poor liquidity. Now they should be given enough time to repay loan without interest and in installments," demanded the letter.

The NCCI, headed by president H.P. Yadav, said they had demanded waiving and

lowering interest rates but the banks were threatening to declare them as Non Performing Assets.

It also said despite the directions of the Reserve Bank of India, several banks were not willing to restructure the loan. "In most of the cases, the 'arbitrators' are appointed without any consent of borrowers and they award in favour of the claimants because they mostly belong to same jurisdiction and getting regular huge business from the claimants," claimed the letter.

Four injured in house collapse**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

Four persons were injured when the roof of their house collapsed in north Delhi's Wazirabad on Monday morning, said fire department officials.

A call about a house collapse near Jharoda's Balmiki temple was received at 6.45 a.m. after which four fire tenders were pressed into service, an official said.

"Only one of them sustained serious injuries but he is out of danger," said a senior officer.

The police said no case has been registered so far. It was an old building with no other floors, they added.

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010, (CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276) E-mail: jmhdpcl2013@gmail.com
Tender Ref. No. JMC/NIT-19/AYUSH/23 Date: 16.08.2019
SHORT TENDER FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR
AYURVEDA / UNANI & HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES FOR
AYUSH HOSPITALS OF THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

The Managing Director, JMHDPCL, Namkum, Ranchi hereby invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Cover System) through e-tender from private sectors having their own manufacturing units for RATE CONTRACT FOR MEDICINES.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be downloaded through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible bidders willing to participate must be registered in e-Procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of Work	RATE CONTRACT FOR AYUSH MEDICINES
2	Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
3	Date of Publication of Tender on website	16.08.2019
4	Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time	23-08-2019 at 1 PM in Office of JMHDPCL, GVI Campus, Tata Road, Namkum, Ranchi- 834010
5	Date / time for submission of bids	24-08-2019 to 31-08-2019 up to 3 PM
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	02-09-2019 at 3 PM
7	Application fee (Non-refundable) / EMD (Refundable)	5000.00 (Five thousand only) and Rs 50000 as EMD as per details in the tender document
8	Contact no. of procurement person	7004871564, 9771500075, 9431929775
9	E-mail ID of e-procurement cell	gm.proc.jmc@gmail.com

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays
JMHDPCL, Ranchi reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document including quantity/amount of items to be supplied or to reject any or all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHDPCL, Namkum, Ranchi in this regard shall be final.

Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only, hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee.

Sd/-
Managing Director, JMHDPCL
P.R.214587 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society(19-20)D

AN-NODE

DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, AUG. 20
RISE 05:53 SET 18:56
RISE 21:53 SET 09:46
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21
RISE 05:54 SET 18:55
22:25 SET 10:38
THURSDAY, AUG. 22
RISE 05:54 SET 18:54
RISE 23:00 SET 11:33

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 34 24
Safdarjung 34 24
Palam 35 25

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A comfortable morning with light breeze. Day will turn warm and humid with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Dry weather with few clouds would prevail. Morning remain comfortable and rise in day temperature possible.

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IN BRIEF

Over 50 illegal e-waste units sealed in east Delhi

NEW DELHI Up to 57 illegal e-waste segregating and processing units in Kanti Nagar were sealed by the East body on Monday, it said. The action was carried out following directions of the DPCC with a joint team of the civic body, pollution authorities, district officials and the police, it said in a statement.

Phone of Solicitor General's wife snatched

NEW DELHI Two bike-borne men allegedly snatched the mobile phone of Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta's wife in front of the FICCI auditorium in Mandi House, the police said on Monday. In a complaint registered with the police, Aparna Mehta said the incident occurred on Sunday while she was walking on the road. "A case has been registered," said DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal.

HC seeks Centre's response to plea seeking same legal age for marriage

Petition says difference in age for men and women amounts to 'discrimination'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from the Centre on a petition seeking equal legal age for marriage for men and women in India.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar gave the direction on a petition filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay who claimed that the limit of 18 years for a woman to get married amounts to "blatant discrimination" as men in India are permitted to get married at the age of 21.

The public interest litigation claimed that the difference in minimum age of marriage for men and women



The High Court listed the case for further hearing on October 30. ■

men was based on patriarchal stereotypes and has no scientific backing.

"While men in India are permitted to get married only at the age of 21, women are allowed to get married when they are 18. This distinction

This distinction is based in patriarchal stereotypes, has no scientific backing, perpetrates de jure and de facto inequality against women, and goes completely against global trends

PLEA BY BJP LEADER AND LAWYER
ASHWINI KUMAR UPADHYAY

principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women.

"The different age limit is based solely on stereotypes. The Law Commission has observed that there exists no scientific basis for such a distinction, and that the differential limit "simply contributes to the stereotype that wives must be younger than their husbands," the petition stated.

The plea argued that a younger spouse is expected to respect and be servile to her elder partner, which aggravates the pre-existing gender-based hierarchy in the marital relationship.

The High Court has listed the case for further hearing on October 30.

Six men jailed for damaging two CATS ambulances at petrol pump

Accused are current and former staffers of CATS, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Six men have been arrested for allegedly damaging two CATS ambulances at a petrol pump in front of Burari transport authority on Saturday, the police said on Monday. All the accused were CATS staff and former employees, they said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Harendra Kumar Singh said that the accused have been identified as Sanjay, Vishal, Amit, Govind Kashyap, Ajay Kumar and Neeraj.

"After interrogation, they were produced before the

court and were sent to Tihar jail for 14 days," Mr. Singh said.

The police said that on Saturday, four CATS ambulances had reported from Umanpur to the transport office in Burari for fitness certificate. After the fitness test, two CATS ambulances came to the petrol pump in front of the transport authority and the drivers went to make payment.

In the meantime, six persons came with their faces covered and started fighting with the drivers and smashed the windscreen of the vehicles, the officer said.

He said that a case was registered against the accused for damaging public property.

The accused were among those who had started a strike last week demanding rollback of the policy to outsource operation and maintenance of free ambulance service to a private firm. They told the police that they wanted to sabotage CATS vehicles.

"It is hereby emphasised that under no circumstances, will protesters be allowed to take law in their own hands and damage government properties," Mr. Singh added.

Retired govt. officials join BJP in nationwide membership drive

People are influenced by PM's move on Article 370: Jaju

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Retired government officials joined the ranks of professionals from various fields to take up the membership of the BJP as part of its ongoing nationwide membership drive here on Monday.

As part of its 'Sangathan Parv Sadasyata Abhiyan' which is going to conclude soon, retired officers, senior advocates of the Supreme Court, industrialists, social activists, engineers and chartered accountants joined the party at a function at the Delhi BJP headquarters.

Among those who joined on Monday were retired Delhi Police Additional Commissioner Bhairo Singh Gurjar, retired CBSE Director Pritam Singh, retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Mohammad Iqbal, Public Prosecutor Charan Das, retired Executive Engineer Suresh Chandra, retired Metropolitan Magistrate S.S. Nimesh and senior Supreme Court advocate T.S. Varun, the BJP said.

"The way in which people are joining the BJP un-



The officials joined the party at a function at the Delhi BJP headquarters on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

der the campaign for the expansion of the party, I am confident that Delhi will be at the top in regard to connecting a record number of people with the party," BJP Delhi in-charge Shyam Jaju said.

The "BJP family," its State unit chief Manoj Tiwari said, was expanding both by virtue of its organisational capacity and Mr. Modi's leadership.

Tiwari welcomes all
"I welcome all the senior advocates and retired officers who have joined the party in such large numbers. The people of Delhi are influenced by the views of the Prime Minister on scarcity of water, population explosion and banning the use of polythene," he said.

AAP MLA gets jail term in assault case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A court here has awarded 7-day jail term to AAP MLA Manoj Kumar for assaulting a woman in 2014.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal said the lawmaker was a public servant and therefore it was his duty to behave fairly and courteously to those who approach him with their problems". The court refused to release him on probation of good conduct, noting that the convict was previously convicted in another case and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

"Therefore, the punishment needs to be deterrent in this case. In this case, the accused Manoj Kumar has been convicted for commission of offence of under Section 352 (punishment for assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation) of the IPC.

"In the facts and circumstances of the case, he is punished with a simple imprisonment for a period of seven days and with fine of ₹500 under Section 352 of the IPC," the court said.

Ravidas temple row: Goel to give one-month salary for construction

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel on Monday said he had pledged to contribute one month's salary for the construction of the Sant Ravidas temple, which was recently demolished here as per the Supreme Court orders.

He claims to have spoken to the DDA seeking the grant of land for the temple either at the same site or an alternative one. "I have assured the Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samiti that I will contribute my one month salary

for the reconstruction of the temple and will appeal to all the right-thinking individuals to support this noble cause," Mr. Goel said.

Alternative site

"I spoke to the DDA Vice-Chairman and asked him to give land for the reconstruction. The DDA has agreed to grant land at an alternative site... the temple should not have been demolished because there might also be other religious structures as well in the forest area," Mr. Goel added.

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11TH FLOOR, SP MUKHERJEE CIVIC CENTRE, JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI-110002

No. AO(CL&EC)/SDMC/2019/102 Dated 19-08-2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited for registration of Idols makers/Murtikars

In compliance to the DPCC Guidelines, applications are invited for registration from Idols makers/Murtikars. They should have to submit the application to Zonal Deputy Commissioner of South Delhi Municipal Corporation under whose jurisdiction they are making the Idols/effigies (for celebration of Dussehra, Ganesh Chaturthi, Durga Puja etc. during festivals), within 15 days of issue of this Public Notice. The application form should include the following information as under:

1. Name of the Idols maker/manufacturer;
2. Address of the Idols maker/manufacturer;
3. Mobile No. of the Idols maker/manufacturer;
4. The details of material used for making Idols/effigies;
5. Number of Idols/effigies made/prepared;
6. Signature of the Idols maker/manufacturer;
7. Aadhar Card No. of the Idols maker/manufacturer;

-Sd/-
R.O. No. 42/DPI/S/2019-20
Addl. Dy. Commissioner

Inspection of school lacking fire safety papers ordered

'Children's safety can't be compromised'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court said that safety of children cannot be compromised in any manner, while directing the fire department to inspect a private school, lacking valid fire safety certificate, within two weeks.

Justice Vibhu Bakshu directed the Chief Fire Officer to inspect the premises of the Seth Bhagwan Dass Senior Secondary Public School to ascertain whether it has addressed other shortcomings and to indicate any other measures that are required to be taken, keeping in view the school's difficulty in widening the staircase in the marital relationship.

The plea argued that a younger spouse is expected to respect and be servile to her elder partner, which aggravates the pre-existing gender-based hierarchy in the marital relationship.

The High Court has listed the case for further hearing on October 30.

raised by Chief Fire Officer and to put in place additional measures that may be required.

"Clearly, safety of the children studying at the petitioner school cannot be compromised in any manner. Meanwhile, respondent no 1 [Directorate of Education] shall not take any precipitate steps for de-recognition of the school," the High Court said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by the school seeking directions to Directorate of Education not to withdraw the recognition granted to the said school.

The school claimed that its building is an old one and that the school is being run from the current premises since 1988. The width of the internal staircase is only 0.95 m.

Order on Puri's plea to cancel NBW reserved

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday reserved order on an application by Ratul Puri, the nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, for the cancellation of a non-bailable warrant (NBW) in a money laundering case connected with the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar reserved the order on conclusion of arguments by counsel for the Enforcement Directorate and the accused. "Arguments heard on the application under Section 70(2) CrPC, 1973 for cancellation of NBWs against applicant/accused. Put up on 21.08.2019 at 4 p.m. for order," the judge said.

NGT seeks report on 'illegal' units in Punjabi Bagh

Plastic units are leading to pollution: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

tion-taken report to this tribunal within one month."

'Felling of trees'

The directions came when the NGT was hearing a plea moved by Mahakar Singh who had alleged illegal felling of trees and groundwater extraction by real estate developers.

"Allegation in this letter is against illegal cutting of trees, extraction of groundwater and construction without environmental clearance for the project of Wave City at Ghaziabad and High Tech City at Noida by real estate developers," the Bench observed while noting the allegations.

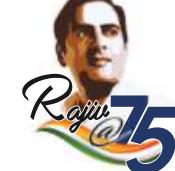
A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let the DPCC look into the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with law and furnish a factual and action-taken report to this tribunal within one month."

The directions came when the green panel was

hearing a plea moved by petitioner Rakesh Kumar who alleged that "illegal plastic units making shoes" were operational in Punjabi Bagh Extension. It was alleged that the units were "resulting in pollution affecting the inhabitants".

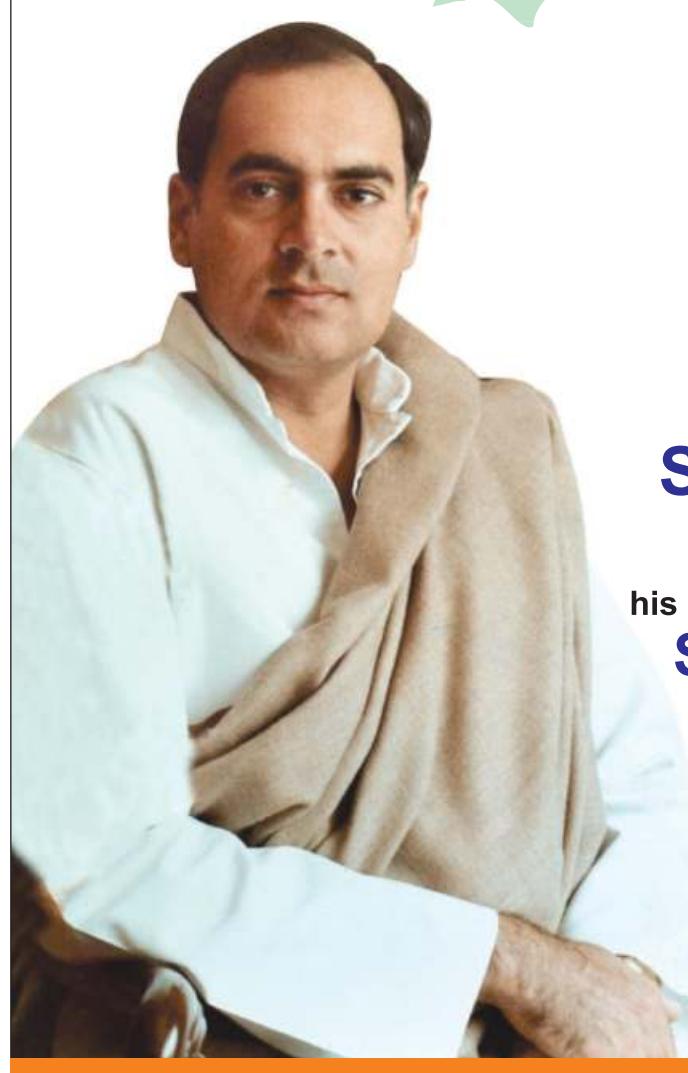
While directing authorities to take action, the Bench also added that action will be taken in case of non-compliance.

"Needless to say that the order of the NGT is binding as a decree of court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action, including prosecution, in terms of the NGT Act, 2010," the Bench said.



"India is an old country but a young nation and like the young everywhere, we are impatient. I am young and I too have a dream. I dream of an India strong, independent, self-reliant and on the front rank of the nations of the world, in the service of mankind..."

— Rajiv Gandhi



Remembering former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna

Sh. Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991) on his Birth Anniversary (20th August)

Sadbhava Divas

Department of Information & Public Relations, Govt. of Rajasthan

Punjab swamped by deluge

CM inspects affected areas, disaster response teams in Jalandhar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

As heavy rain lashed Punjab during the past three days, leaving its rivers Sutlej, Ravi and Beas in spate, flood-like situations were witnessed in many parts of the State on Monday.

Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced ₹100 crore for emergency relief and rehabilitation measures in the flood-hit regions and said a special "Girdawari" will be conducted as soon as the water level recedes to ensure adequate compensation for the affected farmers.



CM Amarinder Singh visits a flood-hit village in Rupnagar district on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT (SEE ALSO PAGE 9)

The Chief Minister made these announcements during a tour of the flood-affected areas of Rupnagar district on Monday. Capt. Amarinder also expressed grief over the death of three persons due to roof collapse in Lud-

iana district on Sunday. Rupnagar Deputy Commissioner Sumeet Jarangal informed the Chief Minister that due to heavy downpour the total release of water at Ropar headworks was 25,000 cusecs.

"The district administration rescued more than 600 families from 45 villages," he said.

Later, the Chief Minister held a meeting to review the overall flood situation in the State with senior officials.

The National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force have been stationed in Jalandhar.

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Venue: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar
AUG 21 पाठ्यक्रम की समग्र सफलता का मूलभूत
Manish Gautam
AUG 22 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सर्वेत एवं समसामयिक मुद्रे
Sharad Tripathi
AUG 23 नीतिशास्त्र (प्रैप-IV)
K.M. Pathi
वैद प्रारंभ: 27 AUG, 11:30AM
B-19, ALS House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09
ALS 9999343999, 9910602288, 27651110

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Spurt in instant triple talaq cases in U.P.

Three dozen FIRs registered since August 1; experts question efficacy of new law

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

When Nazreen, a resident of Lisadi Gate area of Meerut, filed a case against her husband Salman on August 2 for giving her instant triple talaq, she expected the police to arrest him.

"It has been 17 days, and he is still at large. My guess is that he fled to Saudi Arabia where his father is working as a driver. He used to beat me, asked for dowry and on July 29, he gave me instant triple talaq over the phone," Nazreen told The Hindu.

The police registered an FIR under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 3 and 4 of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, but Nazreen said it didn't meet her expectations from the law.

Tanveer, brother of Bushra, who was given instant triple talaq by her husband Mohsin in Jaani area of Meerut, had similar expectations from the police. "There has been no movement in the case. I want to see him [Bushra's husband] behind bars," said Tanveer. Like Nazreen, Bushra also allegedly faced domestic violence and dowry demands.

FIRs against husbands
It has almost been three weeks since The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 came into practice and Uttar Pradesh is seeing a spurt in cases where Muslim women are lodging FIRs to put their husbands behind bars for giving them instant triple talaq.

According to an agency report, three dozen cases of instant triple talaq have been filed in the State since August 1, when the President put his seal on the Bill.

In Hapur, a woman was allegedly given instant triple talaq on August 13 after she asked her husband to provide ₹30 to buy medicines. In Bareilly, Chand Bi was allegedly given instant triple talaq by her husband because she didn't know how to cook.

On August 9, three cases of instant triple talaq were registered in Bareilly in a day.

In Etah, Aamir allegedly said talaq thrice to his wife Seema in the court of a Chief Judicial Magistrate where the two had gone for the hearing of a domestic violence case.

Going by the number of cases, it seems, either the Act is not working as a deterrent, or women are filing complaints under sections of the new Act to add bite to already existing cases of domestic violence and dowry.

Criminal proceedings

Superintendent of Police (Rural), Meerut, Avinash Pandey said criminal proceedings have been started in the case that is under his domain.

"There could be a perception that the FIR will lead to immediate arrest in such cases but the due investigation process needs to be followed. In Sections, which attract punishment of fewer than seven years, an immediate arrest is not necessary unless there is a threat to the life of the victim."

On the triple talaq law, he said it definitely has more teeth than Section 498A which asks for a period of mediation. "If used with the right intentions, it could be an empowering tool," Mr. Pandey said.

An anti-triple talaq crusader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, differed. "When we took the fight to the Supreme Court, we expected to get a fortified Act on the lines of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. What we have got at the end is a politically motivated legislation that seeks to put more Muslim men in jail."

Harvard-trained lawyer and gender activist Nazia Izuddin said, "The triple talaq law, if aimed at reformation, must be able to empower lawyers to get monetary relief/alimony, custody of children and safety and protection of the life of the woman and children. In its current form, the law doesn't provide these remedies or restitution of marital rights to the woman."

Woman beaten to death by husband, kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHRAVASTI

A 22-year-old woman was allegedly beaten to death and her body set on fire by her husband and in-laws for dowry, the police said on Monday. The woman's family, however, insisted that she was killed because she had refused to accept triple talaq given to her on phone.

SP Ashish Srivastava said the incident was reported on Friday from Gadra village in Shrawasti. He said a dowry death case has been registered against eight persons and the husband and father-in-law of the victim, Saeeda, have been arrested. "So far no talaq angle has emerged," he said.

Saeeda's father Ramzan alleged that on August 6, her husband Nafees divorced her on phone but she refused to accept it. He said Nafees later took Saeeda home and killed her.

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Keeping the flame alive



Seeking justice: Members of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti stage a candlelight vigil in Pune to protest the delay in solving the Narendra Dabolkar murder case, on Monday, the eve of his sixth death anniversary. ■ MANDAR TANNU

NIA defends demand for in-camera trial

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday defended its stand of wanting an in-camera trial in the 2008 Malegaon blast case against Bharatiya Janata Party MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit, saying, "it is important to do so in the best interest of society."

On August 5, a group of journalists moved the special NIA court seeking an intervention in the NIA's application, as an in-camera trial would bar the media from covering court proceedings and only allow the lawyers, accused and judge to be present.

Willing to go 50:50 in Assembly polls with Congress: Ambedkar

Discussions on with AAP as well, says VBA leader

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar has offered to fight the Assembly polls together with the Congress and said he was willing to share the seats 50:50. Mr. Ambedkar said he had not yet received any calls from the Congress to discuss the possibility.

The VBA, along with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), had contested all 48 seats in the State in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. While the coalition won the Aurangabad seat, it secured huge

gains in others and polled nearly 40 lakh votes across the State. Key leaders, such as former chief minister Ashok Chavan and Swabhumi Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetti, blamed their loss on the votes polled by VBA candidate in their constituencies.

Mr. Ambedkar said he had made a similar offer to the Congress before the Lok Sabha elections, but decided to contest all the seats after the offer was rejected. "We are preparing to contest all 288 seats. The Congress was not ready to form an alliance back then, they are not rea-

dy even today. We are willing to fight 144 seats, they can contest the other 144," he said. He said the Congress only has suitable candidates for around 80 seats. "Even the last time (Lok Sabha) I had said that the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party didn't have candidates for half the seats they were contesting," he said.

Mr. Ambedkar said they were also in talks with the Aam Aadmi Party and expected something fruitful to emerge, but said they had not yet heard from the AIMIM or Asaduddin Owaisi for seat-sharing talks.

Kin of boat capsized victims accuse authorities of apathy

Rescue boats were not sent in time, say villagers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SANGLI

Family members of some of those killed in the boat tragedy in Sangli district have blamed the local administration's "apathy and negligence" for the incident.

They said if the district administration had arranged boats to rescue them earlier, the accident could have been averted.

Seventeen people drowned when the overcrowded boat capsized during a rescue operation near flood-hit Brahmanal village on August 8. The boat belonged to the grampanchayat and was not part of the official rescue efforts.

Sagar Vader, whose mother, Kasturi, died in the accident, blamed the local administration for sending boats late to the village. He said the family learnt of Kasturi's demise when a picture of her holding a two-month-old child, both lying dead, went viral on WhatsApp.

"We could not even catch a last glimpse of her before cremation, as we could not reach the place where her body was found. The body was claimed by our relative living in Shalinagar and we asked him to perform the last rites there," the teary-eyed son said.

The village had a small boat which transported hundreds of flood-affected people to safer places before it capsized on August 8, Mr. Vader said.

He said when the boat capsized and people fell into the water, his mother caught hold of the two-month-old son of a neighbour, who was also on the boat, to save him. Mr. Vader's grandmother,



Inconsolable: Relatives mourn the death of their family members in the boat capsized in Brahmanal village in Sangli earlier this month. ■ FILE PHOTO

who was also on the boat but survived, said, "I asked Kasturi to start swimming, but she could not do so as she was holding the infant in one hand."

Gajanan Gadade said. "If the village was in the 'red zone', then why they did not send rescue boats earlier?" he asked.

He said seven members of the Gadade family were on the ill-fated boat. While two of them drowned, the five others swam to safety because of the alertness of 14-year-old Sanika, Saurabh's elder sister. "Sanika threw the oar towards those who were drowning and four of them managed to climb back onto the boat with its help," he said.

"I claimed the body of my aunt and cousin," an emotional Gajanan said.

"All our family members know how to swim. We used to practise in the Krishna river. But only Saurabh was not taught to swim as the number of crocodiles in the river had increased in last few years," he said.

+ HCL to expand MIHAN campus in Nagpur

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

HCL Technologies (HCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) for expansion of its campus at the Multi-Model International Passenger and Cargo Hub Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN), in line with its plan for Tier-II cities. As part of the MoU, HCL will acquire 90 acres of land to add to its existing 50-acre MIHAN campus.

HCL started its operations in Nagpur in April 2018 and already has more than 800 employees servicing global accounts. The campus, when fully operational, will employ over 8,000 personnel, an HCL statement said.

The MoU was signed in the presence Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, and Shipping Mi-

nistry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Apparao V.V., chief human resource officer, HCL Technologies; and Sanjay Gupta, corporate vice president, HCL Technologies; among other dignitaries.

Mr. Gadkari said, "I am pleased to note the impressive growth of HCL Technologies and their contribution to socio-economic development of Nagpur... This expansion... in Nagpur will provide many opportunities to local talent and promote growth and development in the city."

Mr. Apparao V.V. said, "As a global technology company, it is our constant focus to reach out to the young talents who are looking for a career in the IT sector. Our expansion in Nagpur is going to be part of HCL's strategic vision to bring global opportunities to Tier-II cities, beyond the large metropolises."

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GM Finance, YEIDA

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Last date of Tender Document online submission : 10.09.2019 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Opening of Financial Bid : 13.09.2019 upto 12:30 Hrs.
For online tendering time table please refer <http://www.tenderwizard.com> sealed percentage Rate tenders are invited for execution of the following works by the North DMC from eligible registered contractor having experience in the similar filed and will be received as per time table and will be opened at 13.09.2019, on 12:30 on website <http://www.tenderwizard.com> by MCD-E-Tendering in the office of EE (M-I) Narela Zonal, Building Narela Zone Delhi-110040. The eligible contractor has to quote their rates subject to the conditions that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of submission of their tenders through e-tendering process.

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Tender amount	E.M.D. in (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Validity of rates	Tender cost
1.	EE/M-I/Narela/TC/2019-2020/7.1,	Improvement and Development of road and lane in PHC Narela in ward No. 1N, Narela, Narela Zone H/A : XLIX-A-X.	3922248/- 78445/-	6 Months 5 Months	500/-		
2.	EE/M-I/Narela/TC/2019-2020/7.2,	Improvement and raising of boundary wall of PHC Narela in ward No. 1N (Narela) in Narela Zone H/A : XLIX-A-X.	2506287/- 50125/-	3 Months 5 Months	500/-		
3.	EE/M-I/Narela/TC/2019-2020/7.3,	Improvement and Development of lane from Narela Alipur road to Daal Mill in Kureni in ward No. 1N Narela in Narela Zone. H/A : XL-VII-S (d)	6717302/- 134345/-	6 Months 5 Months	1000/-		
4.	EE/M-I/Narela/TC/2019-2020/7.4,	Improvement and Development of lane from Shan Mandi to Rampal house and Dharampal to Ajay house and upto Sachdeva house in Punjabi Colony Narela in ward No. 1N Narela in Narela Zone. H/A : XL-VIII-S (d)	8973968/- 179480/-	6 Months 5 Months	1000/-		
5.	EE/M-I/Narela/TC/2019-2020/7.5,	Improvement of lane by providing CC pavement and drainage from Sachin to Gauri Shankar house in Nai Basti Mandi Extn in ward No. 1 (Narela) in Narela Zone. H/A : XL-VIII-ZF 1	2585560/- 51710/-	6 Months 5 Months	500/-		

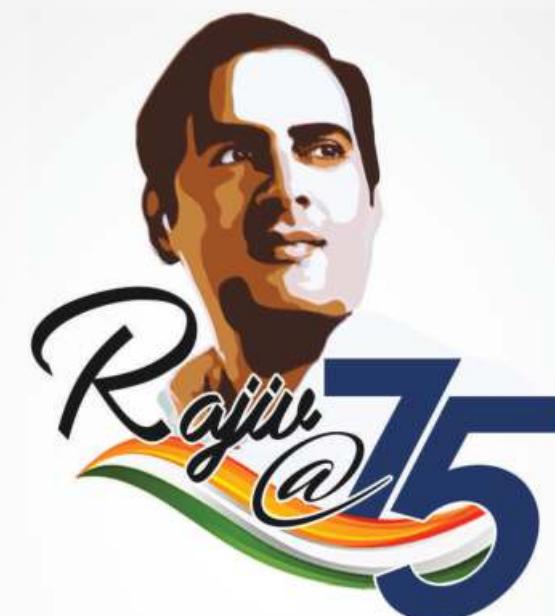
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- 8.4 Crore first time voters in 2019 by lowering the voting age from 21 to 18

Department of Information & Public Relations, Govt. of Rajasthan

IN BRIEF



Sabarimala sees heavy rush; to close tomorrow

PATHANAMTHITTA The Ayappa temple at Sabarimala witnessed heavy rush on Monday. Melsanthi-designate A.K. Sudheer Namboodiri of Tirunavaya Areekkara Mana in Malappuram offered prayers at the temple in the morning. Chief priest Kandararu Maheswaran Mohanarao offered *prasadam* to Mr. Namboodiri (in photo). He will assume charge for one year on November 16. The temple will be closed on Wednesday evening.

IAS officer's driving licence suspended

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The driving licence of suspended IAS officer Siriram Venkitaraman, accused of rash and negligent driving causing the death of journalist K.M. Basheer, has been suspended for one year. The Motor Vehicles Department has given him 30 days to appeal against the order. It has also issued a notice to Wafa Firoz, the owner of the car that rammed Basheer's motorcycle, asking why her driving licence should not be suspended, citing three earlier speeding instances.

Police, Maoists exchange fire in Vizag Agency

VISAKHAPATNAM An exchange of fire between security forces and the Maoists took place near Mandapalle village, a village bordering Koyyuru and GK Veedhi, in Visakhapatnam Agency on Monday. It is learnt that about 15 to 20 hardcore cadres from the East Division of the Maoist, including some senior leaders such as Aruna, Chalapathi, Suresh and Jagan, were present at the site. No casualties were reported from either side. Maoist literature, wire bundles and two radios were recovered.

Southern Railway hit by severe cash crunch

General Manager sends SOS to Ministry, warns that onboard housekeeping services will have to be terminated

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Amid an unprecedented cash crunch, the Southern Railway has sent an SOS to the Ministry of Railways that if adequate funds are not allotted by August-end, it would have no option but to terminate onboard housekeeping services (OBHS), pest control and supply of linen contracts on all 110 long-distance trains.

In his letter addressed to the Railway Board, Mr. Jain said that the "shortage of revenue funds for essential passenger amenity activities such as laundry/linen, OBHS, pest control and supply of linen contracts on all 110 long-distance trains.

Against the projected requirement of funds of ₹194 crore under the head of contractual payments, the budget grant for 2019-20 was only ₹108 crore. As on March 31, 2019, pending bills to the tune of ₹22 crore were due to contractors in addition to which bills worth ₹40 crore were ready for submission.

Urgent provision

While a sum of ₹39 crore was already spent from the allocation in the current fiscal, there was a liability of ₹155



Trying times: Soiled laundry from trains being cleaned at a Southern Railway unit in Chennai. ■ FILE PHOTO

crore which was ₹86 crore more than the available funds.

"The existing funds will be enough for us only for the bills raised for works done in the month of August-September 2019. In the face of such shortage of funds, Southern Railway shall have no option but to stop all OBHS work on all 110 trains in a few weeks' time and thus would have to start issuing contract termination notices

shortly. Pest control too, will have to stop...it is requested that urgent provision of funds may please be made for these essential passenger amenity activities," the General Manager said.

"We need an immediate allocation of ₹40 crore to settle the old dues to contractors and keep the services on without any interruption," the official said.

The issue of cash crunch has surfaced at a time when

the Railway Board has laid emphasis on Swachch Bharat Abhiyan and other cleanliness campaigns. After the OBHS was introduced, complaints of dirty coaches or stinking toilets came down drastically since the cleaning staff travelled on the train and responded to complaints made to Call Centre, Coach Mitra and Twitter handle of railway officials, among others within minutes.

No response

"The entire OBHS, pest control and linen supply is outsourced to dozens of contractors and we don't have the infrastructure or manpower to continue the facility if their services are terminated.

"Southern Railway has 74.5% of its network in Tamil Nadu and the remaining running through Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry. It operates 1,313 trains, including suburban trains.

Karnataka Cabinet to be expanded today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is finally set to expand his Cabinet on Tuesday, more than three weeks after being sworn in. The swearing-in ceremony of the new Ministers will be held at 10.30 a.m.

Till Monday night, the Bharatiya Janata Party State leadership, including the Chief Minister, were yet to get the final list of legislators who would be inducted into the Ministry. According to sources in the party, the names of the new Ministers would be made known officially on Tuesday morning.

Playing it safe, the BJP has asked all its legislators to attend the swearing-in so that those chosen would be available on time.

In phases

There is a feeling among the party cadre that some of the legislators, who have built a strong political base in their constituencies, may get ministerial opportunities despite being away from media glare.

While there is no clarity on the number of the legislators being sworn in on Tuesday, sources said that it could be anywhere from 12 to 18. The central leadership is learnt to have decided to take up Cabinet expansion in a phased manner, instead of filling up all 34 berths at once.

Mr. Yediyurappa, 76, who took oath as Chief Minister on July 26, was in a spot without a team as he had to focus on flood relief work alone. Floods had delayed the ministerial expansion as he could not hold consultations with the central leadership.

Minor daughter, friend held for businessman's murder

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A day after a businessman was found dead in his house in Rajajinagar, his 14-year-old daughter and her friend have been arrested on charge of murder.

The girl, a class nine student, and a senior from school currently pursuing a graduate course killed him at his home as he objected to their relationship, police have said.

On Sunday morning, the girl raised a fire alarm and screamed for help from the terrace of the building where the family stayed on the fourth floor. Alerted by

neighbours, a fire engine rushed to the spot. Fire officials found that the blaze was confined to the bathroom. They found a man's body on fire, put it out and informed the police.

"There were telltale signs that it was a crime scene. There was an attempt to show there was a short circuit or a water heater blast, but there was nothing to indicate a source for an accidental fire," said a fire official.

As the city police took over, the daughter, who was the only other person in the house, became the prime suspect. She broke down un-

der sustained interrogation and confessed to having killed her father, police said.

The girl's mother and younger brother had left for Puducherry early on Sunday. It is believed that the girl laced the milk she gave her father with sleeping pills. After he fell unconscious, her friend came over. "The duo stabbed the man multiple times and slit his throat using kitchen knives. After shifting the body to the bathroom and putting it on the toilet seat, the two went out and got bottles of petrol. The girl set the body on fire, and raised an alarm," a senior police official said.

Sr. Lucy, who took part in a protest against former Bishop of Jalandhar Franco Mulakkal accused of raping a nun, was expelled by the FCC early this month for "failing to give a satisfactory explanation" for her lifestyle in violation of the proper

Case against convent for locking up nun in Kerala

E.M.MANOJ
KALPETTA

The Vellamunda police have registered a case against the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) convent authorities at Karakkamala in Kerala's Wayanad district following a complaint of illegal confinement by Sister Lucy Kalappura.

Sr. Lucy, who took part in a protest against former Bishop of Jalandhar Franco Mulakkal accused of raping a nun, was expelled by the FCC early this month for "failing to give a satisfactory explanation" for her lifestyle in violation of the proper



Sr. Lucy Kalappura

law of the FCC.

The nun, in her complaint to the police, said she was not able to attend the mass in a nearby church on Monday morning because of the illegal confinement, M.A.

Santhosh, Circle Inspector, Vellamunda, told *The Hindu*.

She said she noticed that the doors of the convent were locked from outside on Monday morning. Later she called the police and they unlocked the door.

The police have registered a case under Section 242 (wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code and started an investigation, Mr. Santhosh said.

The congregation had earlier accused her of publishing poems, purchasing a car and taking part in a protest against Mulakkal.

Multicrore IMA scam case set to go to CBI

High Court to take up petitions today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has reportedly decided to hand over the multicrore financial scam involving I Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group of Companies to the CBI, according to highly placed sources.

The State government will likely inform the High Court of the decision when a bunch of petitions related to IMA, including a PIL petition seeking a CBI probe, comes up for hearing on Tuesday. The decision was taken when the Chief Minister met top police officials led by DG&IGP Neelamani N. Raju at his residence on Monday, sources said.

When the BJP was in the Opposition, it had demanded a CBI probe into the scam. IMA, which claimed



Mohammed Mansoor Khan

to be a halal trading firm, had allegedly cheated thousands of investors to the tune of ₹2,500 crore. There are allegations of the involvement of several Congress and JD(S) politicians.

The coalition government had set up a Special Investigation Team to probe the scam. The kingpin Mohammed Mansoor Khan has accused former Congress MLA R. Roshan Baig, now disqualified for defection, of cheating him of ₹400 crore.

Polavaram: Centre seeks detailed report

Row over A.P.'s call for reverse tenders

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has called for a comprehensive report from Polavaram Project Authority Chief Executive Officer R.K. Jain on the circumstances that led to the cancellation of the works awarded to Navayuga Engineering Company Limited and floating of the reverse tenders with effect from Monday.

The Centre's diktat comes just two days after the Andhra Pradesh government invited reverse tenders for Polavaram project power house and head works, estimated to cost ₹4,988 crore, in apparent disregard of the advice by the PPA to abandon the idea of pre-closure and re-tendering, as it could lead to delay in works and cost escalation.

The PPA is expected to furnish details of expenditure incurred on the project so far, bills pending clearance by the Centre and the complications involved in the reverse tendering process. It may be noted that in his communication to Andhra Pradesh Government Special Chief Secretary (Water Resources) Aditya Nath Das on August 16, Mr. Jain advised that the State government should refrain from re-tendering the works in the best interests of the project or at least keep it in abeyance till the Central government took a considered view of the matter. However, the State issued notification for reverse tenders the next day itself purportedly on the basis of a report of the expert committee that irregularities in the project cost the exchequer dear.

Row over A.P.'s call for reverse tenders

Nature's palette



Tribal girls unwinding at the picturesque Araku Valley, 130 km from Visakhapatnam. The hill station in Andhra Pradesh with its fields and vast green cover attracts tourists from all over the country throughout the year. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

SC seeks reply from Karnataka on RTE

Parents want quota in private schools to continue even if govt. schools exist nearby

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a reply from the Karnataka government on an appeal filed by a group of parents challenging an amendment in the State's Right to Education (RTE) Rules that does not make it mandatory for private unaided schools to admit economically backward class students if there are government or aided schools in the same locality.

HC upheld changes

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana issued notice on a petition filed by Education Rights Trust and RTE Students and Parents Association against the amended Rule 4 (7) of the Karnataka

RTE Rules. The Karnataka High Court in May 2019 upheld the amendment.

Amendment opposed

The petitioners contend that the amendment was contrary to the objective of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (or RTE Act).

They have sought a direction from the Supreme Court to the Karnataka government to continue admission under the 25 per cent RTE quota in private unaided schools even if government or aided schools exist in the neighbourhood.

The petitioners have appealed a decision of a Division Bench of the High Court, which said that though education was a fun-

ctional right under Article 21A of the Constitution, parents could not insist on admission in private schools to gain admission exclusively in private schools, it is their decision, for which the government is not liable or accountable," the High Court had reasoned.

Declines plea

The High Court had declined the contention raised by the petitioners that the amendment was arbitrary, saying the standing of government schools would be put to risk if parents insisted on using the RTE quota to gain admission exclusively in private schools.

The High Court had agreed with the State's argument that an obligation to allow admission to unaided schools and reimburse fees would arise only in the absence of government schools in the locality.

Govt. steps in to curb illegal sale, smuggling of nicotine cartridges, e-cigarettes

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

To strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes, the State government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015, notifying nicotine as Class A poison under the rules.

Highly toxic chemicals, which even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene), are notified under Class A. A gazette notification was published last month and the new rules are now called the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2019.

Electronic cigarettes are

small battery-operated devices that vapourise liquid nicotine to provide the same experience as smoking tobacco.

Although the Karnataka government had banned the sale and production of e-cigarettes in June 2016, illegal sale and smuggling of nicotine cartridges and e-cigarettes are rampant in the State. They are often marketed as a way to cut down or cut out cigarette smoking altogether, and sold as aids to quit smoking.

Expert study

The ban was imposed after a study by the State Health Department and experts that showed that e-cigarettes encourage the younger generation to use conventional ci-

cigarettes, including online promotion.

"Despite this, we find that illegal sale of e-cigarettes is rampant in the State. The Cybercrime police recently issued notices to e-commerce platforms cautioning them that they cannot sell e-cigarettes online. Also customs officials have been seizing nicotine cartridges and e-cigarettes from people flying into Karnataka from outside," said U.S. Vishal Rao, member of the State government's High-Powered Committee on Tobacco Control.

"Nicotine is used as a direct substance in e-cigarettes and the content ranges up to 36 mg/mL. Although regular cigarettes too have nicotine, it is in the range of 1.2 to 1.4 mg/mL," Dr. Rao explained.



The ban – invoking sections of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Food Safety Act – also ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-

-cigarettes and the content ranges up to 36 mg/mL. Although regular cigarettes too have nicotine, it is in the range of 1.2 to 1.4 mg/mL," Dr. Rao explained.

IN BRIEF



Composer Khayyam passes away at 92

MUMBAI Veteran composer Khayyam, best known for his music in classic films such as *Kabhi Kabhie* and *Umrao Jaan*, passed away after a prolonged illness at a hospital here on Monday. He was 92. The noted composer was admitted to the ICU at Sujay Hospital in Juhu for a lung infection over 10 days ago. "He had breathing issues and other age-related illnesses. He died at around 9.30 p.m.," a family friend said. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi, popularly known as Khayyam, was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan. PTI

Bus collision claims 13 lives in Dhule

MUMBAI A collision between a container truck and a State Transport (ST) bus in Dhule left 13 people dead and 35 injured on Sunday night. The accident occurred on the Shahada-Dondaigaon road in Nimgul village in Dhule at around 10.15 p.m. "The truck was travelling towards Aurangabad at a very high speed and collided with the ST bus, which was going towards Shahada. The impact sent both the vehicles careening out of control," Inspector Hemant Patil said.

ED summons MNS chief Raj Thackeray

MUMBAI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray in connection with a money laundering probe, evoking a sharp reaction from the party, which termed the action political vendetta. The development comes days after Mr. Thackeray's meetings with opposition leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee on his demand for replacing EVMs with ballot papers. The MNS has convened a party meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Help from the skies



Saving grace: A helicopter of the Indian Air Force airlifting two persons who were stranded on an under-construction bridge on the flooded Tawi river in Jammu on Monday. PTI

Death toll 38 as heavy rain lashes northern States

Hundreds of tourists stranded in Himachal's Lahaul-Spiti district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Rain in the northern States claimed at least 38 lives and triggered landslides that left hundreds of people in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh stranded and several areas in Punjab, Haryana and Jammu flooded.

Three more people were reported dead in Himachal Pradesh where heavy rain over the weekend has caused floods and landslides, increasing the toll to 25.

In neighbouring Uttarakhand, the death toll climbed to 12 with two more bodies being recovered on Monday. Cloudbursts have wreaked havoc in a dozen villages of



Rescue operations under way after a cloudburst at Arakot in Mori, Uttarakhand, on Monday. PTI

Uttarkashi district, washing away houses and hectares of agricultural land.

Boy drowned
A 16-year-old boy drowned in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah due to release of water from

Kota Barrage into the Chambari. Hundreds of tourists are stranded in Himachal's Lahaul-Spiti district, which witnessed an untimely spell of snowfall, a day ago. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday

directed the local administration to ensure immediate evacuation of people and tourists stranded in the Lahaul-Spiti valley.

Several roads are still blocked in the State following landslides, triggered by heavy rains, adversely impacting the vehicular movement.

Land washed away

Several houses and hectares of agricultural land were washed away as rain hit more than a dozen villages in Mori block of Uttarkashi which borders Himachal Pradesh in the early hours on Sunday.

(With inputs from PTI)

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

On August 16, a few policemen arrived at the house of Vadamlalai Raman in village Purandarai located in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu with photographs of a patient who has been staying at the Bongaon Subdivisional Hospital in West Bengal for over two years.

Vadamlalai's mother, Misiyammal, identified the person in the photographs without much difficulty. He was Janaki Raman, her son who went missing about 11 years ago.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over telephone from her village Suguna, Janaki Raman's sister-in-law could not hide the excitement the family felt at the prospect of

reunited with a close relative after more than a decade.

She said her husband Vadamlalai will leave for West Bengal on Tuesday to bring Janaki Raman back to his native village. Janaki Raman had

remained in West Bengal for over a decade, mostly as a vagabond and then as an inpatient at the Bongaon Subdivisional Hospital. He spoke only Tamil and authorities at the state-run hospital had no idea about his antecedents. It was only

Crucial manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 today

ISRO Chairman Sivan says it will be a major milestone

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The moon-bound Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is scheduled to undergo a crucial orbit manoeuvre around 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday morning as it approaches its destination.

To make the spacecraft capture the lunar orbit and start going around the moon, its handlers at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will fire its engines briefly to slow it down to capture the moon's orbit. The move, called the Lunar Orbit Insertion or LOI, is probably one of the two top orbit manoeuvres of the mission, along with the high point: the soft-landing of the Vikram lander on the southern polar region of moon on September 7.

‘Major milestone’

ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said, "It is a very difficult manoeuvre and will mark a major milestone of the mission."



Mission moon: The Lunar Orbit Insertion is probably one of the two top orbit manoeuvres of the mission. AFP

Without this move, the spacecraft will go out of the lunar ambit and travel into an unknown and unwanted space realm, according to experts who are conversant with the first Indian lunar orbiter mission, Chandrayaan-1 in 2008.

Reverse step

For the first 24 days of its earth-bound phase, the speed and range of the spacecraft were being boosted

to push it towards moon. As it nears the moon, its handlers will do the reverse - lower its speed gradually until it circles the moon, pole to pole.

August 20 marks Day 30 since Chandrayaan-2 was launched from Sriharikota on July 22. The spacecraft has been travelling since August 14 to its destination some 3.84 lakh km away. So far, the operation has been similar to Chandrayaan-1.

Curb on woman unusual: SC

HC had told her to limit phone calls to kin to an hour

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Courts tend to be protective about young estranged couples who make an effort to give their marriage a second chance.

But the Supreme Court found that the Jharkhand High Court had been a little too over-protective.

The High Court, in fact, decided the restrict the wife's phone calls to her relatives to about an hour daily. This was meant to protect the couple from any untoward interference from her parents.

But a Supreme Court

Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph decided that the High Court had definitely crossed the line here.

The apex court said it found the curb placed on the wife "unusual".

The High Court had passed its February 2019 order on an anticipatory bail application filed by the husband. The High Court called the couple for a settlement. Limited phone use was one of the conditions laid down by the High Court.

Intent to seclude
“On a reading of the conditions, it appears that the in-

tent is to seclude both the petitioner and respondent No. 2 [wife and husband] from interference in the matrimonial affairs by their respective parents,” the apex court noted.

In the apex court, the wife said she had no difficulty in cooperating with the endeavour for reconciliation, but she was “perturbed” by the High Court’s direction to limit her calls.

Though the High Court had noted that the wife gave her consent to this restriction, the latter claimed in the apex court that she had given no such consent.

Exchange plastic waste for a free meal here

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOJPUR

Want a free meal in exchange of plastic waste? Head to the segregation unit near the Ambikapur bus stand, get the waste weighed, receive a coupon and relish an Indian thali at the garbage cafe on the opposite side of the road.

The Municipal Corporation of Ambikapur, in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, in a bid to spread awareness of curbing plastic use, feed the homeless and ragpickers, and empower poor women,

is going to open the cafe soon. While a kg of waste will fetch one a full meal, half a kg will get one a breakfast. The city is the second cleanest in the country after Indore according to the Swachh Survekshan 2019, said Mayor Ajay Tirkey, and efforts to clean inner wards would take the shape of a cafe. “We have made an allocation of ₹5 lakh for the cafe... women will run it. They already prepare and supply food to rain baseras,” he said.



Indian Institute of Management Shillong

Invites application for its

8th Batch of

Post Graduate Program for Executives in Managing Business in Emerging Economies (PGPEX-MBEE)

Program Highlights:

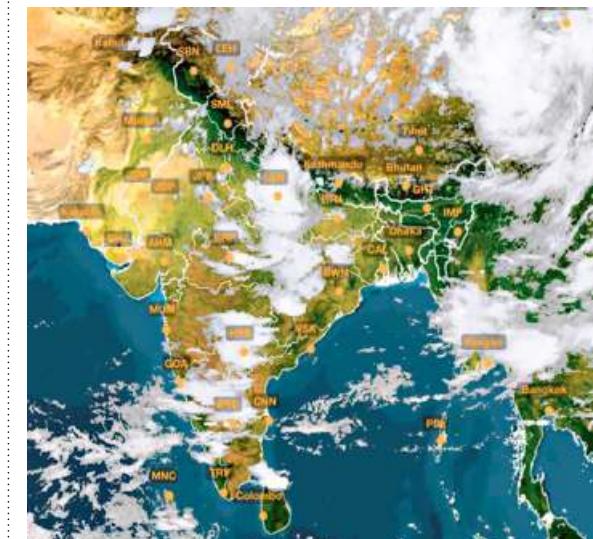
Eligibility:
One year full time residential program
International Immersion Scores
Focus on building Minimum 5 years of experience
transnationally intelligent leadership Graduation degree in any discipline

DETAILS		ROUND 2
Application Form	Starts	07 June 2019
Submission and Registration Fee payment	Ends	30 August 2019
Announcement of shortlisted candidates		First week of September 2019
Interview Dates		27 – 30 September 2019
Result Announcement		Latest by 16 October 2019
Last date of acceptance fee payment		31 October 2019
Last date of Withdrawal		02 December 2019
Registration for the Programme		21 January 2020
Commencement of the Programme		22 January 2020

For any queries contact:
PGPEX Admissions Office
Phone: +91 364 230 8024
Email: admission.pgpeex@iimshillong.ac.in
Website: www.iimshillong.ac.in

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rayalseema, south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...35.0...	26.0		Kozhikode	0.2...	31.2...	24.4
Ahmedabad	0.7...	32.6...	25.9	Kurnool	...32.6...	25.8	
Aizawl	...28.2...	22.4		Lucknow	...33.6...	27.2	
Allahabad	0.4...	35.1...	27.0	Madurai			
Bengaluru	11.7...	23.7...	20.4	Mangaluru	6.8...	28.0...	23.0
Bhopal	9.2...	32.0...	22.0	Mumbai	1.9...	31.2...	25.8
Bhubaneswar	0.3...	29.2...	24.9	Mysuru	39.6...	28.3...	19.3
Chandigarh	25.3...	29.8...	24.3	New Delhi	2.0...	34.4...	23.6
Chennai	17.1...	30.2...	24.8	Patna	13.2...	32.8...	26.0
Coimbatore	...29.0...	23.0		Port Blair	0.5...	30.6...	25.5
Dehradoon	5.8...	25.6...	23.4	Puducherry	50.8...	28.4...	23.1
Gangtok	22.4...	21.9...	17.7	Pune	...30.6...	20.8	
Goa	18.5...	30.6...	24.6	Raipur	...31.8...	23.4	
Guwahati	0.3...	35.1...	26.2	Ranchi	...30.2...	22.4	
Hubballi	...27.0...	22.0		Shillong	...24.2...	17.0	
Hyderabad	2.9...	29.4...	23.7	Shimla	32.0...	22.2...	15.0
Imphal	...30.3...	23.1		Srinagar	2.6...	24.5...	13.4
Jaipur	...32.6...	25.0		Thiruvananthapuram	7.6...	31.7...	24.0
Kochi	42.8...	29.6...	23.4	Tiruchi	11.5...	34.4...	24.6
Kohima	2.0...	25.2...	17.8	Vijayawada	3.4...	32.5...	25.4
Kolkata	4.9...	33.2...	25.8	Visakhapatnam	0.7...	32.6...	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

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Something special

India and Bhutan have a good thing going; each must take the other's concerns seriously

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two day visit to Thimphu affirmed a long-standing tradition between India and Bhutan, where the leaders of both countries have given visiting each other a major priority early in their tenures. Mr. Modi returned a state visit to India by Bhutan Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering in December 2018; this visit was actually delayed to include outcomes such as the inauguration of the 720 MW Mangdechhu hydropower plant. The relationship is indeed built on a traditional closeness, one that is unique in today's world. Open borders, close alignment and consultation on foreign policy, and regular, open communications on all strategic issues are the hallmark of the relationship that has maintained its consistency for the past many decades. Bhutan's unequivocal support to India on strategic issues has meant a lot to India on the international stage and at the United Nations. Equally, Bhutan's leadership has not flinched in opposing threats to India; for instance, the former King's efforts in 2003 to drive out ULFA rebels or more recently, support for India's stand against Chinese troops on the Doklam plateau. India's assistance to Bhutan's planned economy, to constructing its highest revenue earner of hydropower generated electricity, and then buying the electricity generated has also ensured a symbiotic and mutually beneficial base to the relationship, which has been nurtured by the leaders in both countries, in a manner Mr. Modi called "exemplary".

It would however, be a mistake for New Delhi to take the relationship with Thimphu for granted. In the past few years, ties came under a strain over India's sudden change in its power purchasing policy, rigid rates and refusal to allow Bhutan to join the national power grid and trade with third countries like Bangladesh. These issues are being addressed now. Another concern that could create differences is over Bhutan's worry that too much trade, transport and tourism from India could put its environment at risk. India's plans for a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal grouping have been held up, and a Bhutanese proposal to levy entry charges on Indian tourists could cause differences with India. Earlier generations of Bhutanese students never looked beyond India, but in recent years young Bhutanese have shown a preference for education destinations in Australia, Singapore and Thailand. There is thus much to repair in the ties. More importantly, New Delhi will have to remain alert to strategic powers which are courting Bhutan assiduously, as is evident from the high-level visits from China and the U.S. In a world of growing options, it remains in India's and Bhutan's best interests to make each other's concerns a top priority.

Soldier Number One

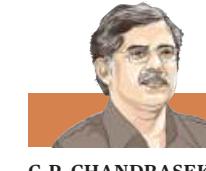
The creation of the post of CDS is a comment on the security environment

The creation of the post of the Chief of the Defence Staff, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day address, fulfils a long-felt and consistently articulated need to strengthen India's defence posture. Considering that the Prime Minister underlined this announcement by saying that this was an "important" development, it gives legitimate pause to wonder why this has taken so many decades. Indeed, Manohar Parrikar, as Defence Minister, had said this was on the cards. Yet, two Defence Ministers came and went, Arun Jaitley and Nirmala Sitharaman, and this logical step was not taken. Since this is to be a 'single-point' advisory position to the government, there must have been entrenched opposition to this becoming reality. Ultimately the decision must have been thrust centre stage by the current strategic environment. What was always desirable became an urgent necessity. Pulwama and Balakot, the repeated offers for mediation in Kashmir by the U.S. President, the imminent pull-out of American troops from Afghanistan, which would leave Pakistan and its proxies the dominant players on the ground with a strong chance of blowback into Kashmir, as well as the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, are factors that have come together to confer urgency to taking this step. The forces will no doubt have to be on a heightened sense of alert and in a seamless state of coordination to meet the challenges.

Now, the ambit of the office, the tenure, and who will hold the post, will have to be decided soon. Consider briefly what transpired during Kargil, after which the Kargil Review Committee strongly recommended setting up the CDS: It took a fortnight after the incursions were initially detected before the Indian Air Force (IAF) could be pressed into countermeasures: the then Indian Army Chief was away on a foreign tour, there was inadequate appreciation of the ground situation by the Indian Army, and poor sharing of intelligence, and the squabbling between the IAF and the Indian Army over whether to use helicopters or fixed wing aircraft and how and who should call the shots, comprehensively blunted the initial response. The CDS is expected to bridge such dangerous gaps and reduce response time. It is envisaged he will keep the Defence Minister, continuously and fully briefed and effectively advised, be part of the adjunct apparatus of the Cabinet Committee on Security Affairs, and better link the three services in terms of planning, coordination and execution. It will certainly leave the three service chiefs to focus on running their arms of the forces more efficiently. This move will no doubt bring the strategic forces under the CDS as well. The government should use the opportunity to ramp up the intelligence apparatus that is concomitant to this office.

The far right's disruption of globalisation

Donald Trump's emulators have tapped into globalisation's long-standing discontents



C.P. CHANDRASEKHAR

By launching a trade war against China, the United States government that had pressured many a country to liberalise trade and globalise seems to have turned against its own agenda. In a series of aggressive moves, the U.S. – the one-time votary of freer trade – has put in place and widened the coverage of a protectionist shield aimed at stimulating domestic production and reducing the country's trade deficit. While these moves initiated by the Donald Trump administration were on occasion targeted at multiple countries and involved rewriting the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, the focus of the trade and technology war has been China.

Steps against China

China-specific tariff aggression began with a 25% tariff on imports worth \$50 billion, out of the total of \$540 billion imported by the U.S. from China in July 2018. Soon, an additional \$200 billion worth of imports from China were subjected to tariffs of 10%, and those levies were also raised to 25% in May this year. Most recently on August 1, the balance of around \$300 billion worth of imports from China were subjected to phased 10% levy, with a clear threat that these levies too can be raised to 25%. China's responses to U.S. actions, which came at every step of the trade war, have in turn led to the \$120 billion of goods it imports from the U.S. being subject to a

25% duty. The U.S. has also imposed sanctions on and shut off business relations with individual Chinese firms, such as Huawei, on grounds varying from national security to alleged theft of intellectual property from U.S. firms. This prevents the firms targeted from either selling in U.S. markets and that of its allies or buying goods, services and technology from U.S. firms or those of its allies.

Parallel to all this, based on the allegation that the Chinese authorities have deliberately allowed the yuan to depreciate *vis-à-vis* the dollar to support its exporters, the U.S. Treasury has designated China as a currency manipulator. What additional action that would lead to is yet unclear. What is clear, however, is that given the importance of China as a global manufacturing hub, these measures have disrupted global value chains and production networks that are the hallmark of globalisation. De-globalisation may yet be a distant prospect, but the fact that the world's leading superpower is willing to disrupt globalisation provides both an example and the justification to other governments that find the need to move in that direction.

The U.S. argument

The U.S. justifies its actions against China by citing that country's significance as a source of inadequately reciprocated imports into the U.S. Imports from China account for more than a fifth of aggregate U.S. imports. With exports to China being nowhere as large, the U.S. runs an annual trade deficit with that country of around \$420 billion, which 'imbalance' is attributed to Chinese policy.

There are, however, two important facts that this argument sidesteps. First, the gains to the U.S. from its economic relationship



with China are inadequately captured by the trade figures. A major gain for U.S. companies, even if not for the U.S. per se, is the local sales by subsidiaries of American multinationals located in China. Official statistics from the U.S. indicate that U.S. multinational affiliates based in China notched up local sales of \$22 billion in 2015, which do not figure in trade calculations. Second, these subsidiaries are responsible for a chunk of China's exports to the U.S. According to one estimate, more than half of Chinese exports to the U.S. originate in foreign invested enterprises which are either U.S. multinational arms or firms with parents in other advanced economies. That is, the U.S. trade deficit with China is the result of the off-shoring associated with globalisation, rather than to Chinese policy favouring its own firms.

Reading Trump

Not surprisingly, it troubles the neoliberal policy establishment that the fallout of this kind of trade aggression can set back globalisation across the world. Members of the G20 other than the U.S. have strenuously and unsuccessfully tried to get the latter to sign on to another call for strengthening free trade. The International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and a host of international institutions have warned of the dangers of the

new protectionism. Implicit in their reasoning is that the tariff aggression is an error being made by a maverick or misguided administration. But that does not take into account the fact that Mr. Trump had been railing against trade agreements that hurt the U.S. even in the course of his election campaign and withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement days after he took office. It also ignores the fact that a section hurt by the Trump tariffs – U.S. farmers for whom China was a \$6 billion market in 2018 with it absorbing 60% of U.S. soybean exports – still support him. A survey by the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture found that 78% of farmers held that the Trump tariffs will in time benefit them and a Pulse survey by *Farm Journal* found that Mr. Trump had a 79% approval rating among farmers.

The faith in Mr. Trump and refection of economic liberalism are telling. These farmers along with U.S. industrial workers have for long felt they had been left behind in the neoliberal years when elites in developed and developing countries alike captured all the benefits of growth and inequality increased hugely. With the increase in income and wealth at the top of the pyramid accruing largely through transactions in the financial sector, productive activity that could have delivered benefits to others has been lagging.

The idea that the benefits of whatever growth occurred under the neoliberal regime would trickle down to the poor and lower middle classes was shown to be what it was: patently false. Seen in that context, Mr. Trump is no maverick, despite his wild Twitter and vocal outbursts. He tapped into a genuine grievance and railed against elements of a regime he too was a beneficiary of. That

brought him to power once. It may well return him to power again. When in power he needs to adopt at least some policies that go against the grain of free market philosophy and the globalisation that flows from it.

In Europe

That this is not confined to the U.S. comes through from the rise of what is dismissed as "right wing populism" in Europe, which is not just sceptical of free trade even within the European Union but is coming out against the fiscal conservatism promoted by financial interests that leaves the continent mired in a trajectory of low growth and high unemployment and individual countries reeling under austerity. Combining this with anti-immigrant rhetoric delivers a toxic mix that is helping them gain popularity and even a seat in some governments. On the other hand, sections of the centre left that had bought into the neoliberal paradigm are being shown the door. The pleasure derived by the advocates of neoliberalism from the significant decline of the left in the decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union (which deprives the progressive critique of neoliberalism of a strong political base) has proved short-lived.

Needless to say, the far right is hardly committed to the anti-globalisation strain implicit in its rhetoric. It is as wedded to the hegemony of capital and the markets as are the neoliberal dogmatists. Their ideological pragmatism is opportunistic and fickle. Yet for the moment, their actions, especially that of Mr. Trump, have disrupted globalisation.

C.P. Chandrasekhar is Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Democracy under siege

Liberty, equality and fraternity are becoming subservient to a new idea of sovereignty



DUSHYANT DAVE

The Constituent Assembly formation was the culmination of the final stage of the struggle for freedom and Independence, which was won by the supreme sacrifices made by millions of Indians. People across the length and breadth of the country made sacrifices in one way or the other. On January 26, 1950, India got its Constitution. Every succeeding generation in India owes an eternal debt of gratitude to the country's forefathers for this 'sacred text'. There is absolutely no doubt that we must keep the spirit of this text as well as the letter, while also protecting Constitutional values and its morality.

However, the current state of affairs in the country is an example of how the Constitution is slowly and steadily being made to wither away. Parliament, the judiciary and the executive are all under stress. Things are going wrong in these fast-changing times. People are moved, and getting moved, by

an ideology which is apparently in conflict with constitutional ethos and basic human values. As a result, people are tired of a government by the people and are instead leaning to support a government for the people. They are indifferent to whether it is a government of the people and by the people. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar warned us "not to be tardy in the recognition of the evils that lie across our path and which induce people to prefer Government for the people to Government by the people". But have we paid heed to this warning?

A missing debate

Today, liberty, equality and fraternity are becoming subservient to a new idea of sovereignty. Ultra-nationalism has trampled over basic human rights and the dignities of citizens, especially of the "down-trodden" and the "minorities". Constitutionalism is being forgotten. As a result democratic principles are unable to check legislative, judicial and executive powers. Each organ is paying lip service to this fundamental principle. Examples are writ large in front of us and happen everyday.

The government's focus on certain ideological issues to drive home its agenda is a serious point



to be debated. A political party that is in power can push through its policies. But when it becomes an obsession to the point of neglecting real issues, it poses a challenge.

The ruling party cannot be satisfied with chest thumping on Triple Talaq or the abrogation of Article 370. Where are the much-needed discussions on poverty, the economic slowdown, hate crimes, the rise in population and agrarian distress? Why not 'wage war' on these issues?

The government's strategy on the abrogation of Article 370 is by far the most serious challenge to federalism. The bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir is most condemnable. Does this not pave the way for any government with a majority

to carve up States based on a whim?

Stepping back

The judiciary, especially the Supreme Court of India, is the custodian of the fundamental rights of citizens under the Constitution. But the problem is not the absence of the law but of its implementation. The judiciary's blanching over protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir points to its abdication of carrying out its duty.

The judiciary itself has held that a judicial review of actions by the Executive is a part of the basic structure and has even proclaimed that "there are no unreviewable dispositions under the constitutional dispensation". If one can go by various judgments, it is dutybound to inquire into the legitimacy of the exercise of powers.

Article 21, which is about the "protection of life and personal liberty", has been infused with new and enriched life by the judiciary. But in Jammu and Kashmir, restrictions virtually amounting to a deprivation of the liberties of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir over the past fortnight are not "according to procedure established by law". Using Section 144 of the

Code of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 in a blanket manner is wholly insufficient as a justification for all that has been done.

Then why is the silence of the higher judiciary so deafening? The reason is not far to fathom. The distance between the judiciary and political and executive leaders is blurring. Where is the expected aloofness?

It was B.R. Ambedkar again who said, "Because I feel, however good a Constitution may be it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called upon to work it, happen to be a bad lot." His strong warning – "It is quite possible for this new born democracy to retain its form but give place to dictatorship in fact. If there is a landslide, the danger of the second possibility becoming actuality is much greater" – does not seem to have registered with our constitutional functionaries. The election result of 2019 is the proof of Ambedkar's prophecy coming true. But sadly, the real protectors of the Constitution do not seem bothered. They are content with allowing the government to have either the last say or the last laugh. Democracy is certainly losing out to populism.

Dushyant Dave is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name with initials.

Unrest in Kashmir

It is a matter of concern that the situation in Kashmir is still not normal ("Curbs on movement back in Kashmir following clashes", August 19). Recurring incidents of disturbances, even if they are mild, should be taken seriously. If the Centre had taken into confidence the local leaders before abrogating Article 370, the situation could have been handled better. The Bharatiya Janata Party was never in power in the State except for a couple of years. It is difficult for it to read the pulse of the people on its own. It is time the Centre involved local leaders in decision-making. Whatever happens in Jammu and Kashmir reverberates not only in other parts of India but also across the globe.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ It is typical of the middle class to go with the flow as

they are always more likely to side with the powerful rather than the powerless. This has always been the case, irrespective of which party is in power (Editorial page, "The Idea of India is failing", August 19). What happens in Kashmir has very little relevance in the lives of middle-class citizens in India as they are not directly affected.

KARTHIK G.,
Chennai

■ It's important that we merge J&K with India completely because it borders a nation that has the intention of disturbing our internal security by making Kashmiris victims of terrorism. The writer says we think of Kashmir only as a tourist spot but that was because of the hurdle of Article 35A. If no one was allowed to make Kashmir their home, how could they develop a bond with the place?

The move by the government was definitely not

constitutional but the motive is right, which is to secure the interest of the Union of India.

AUM CHHAYA,
Rajkot, Gujarat

■ It is because of a majoritarian mindset that Indians now believe that whatever Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah do is what the country really needs. Announcing suddenly drastic moves such as demonetisation and the abrogation of Article 370 while keeping an entire State in the dark is not how a democracy functions. Due to this one-man (or two-men) show, there is a decline in the spirit of secularism and fraternity.

ELOWN M. ALWYN,
Bengaluru

■ It's important that we contemplate a change in its 'No First Use' policy to checkmate Pakistan or is this mere posturing to lure the

people into believing that it can go to any extent to protect the nation from foreign aggression, be it from Pakistan or China (Editorial page, "An intervention that leads to more questions", August 19)? There must be clear enunciation of the policy in order to clear confusion and open up the issue for wider debate and discussion.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

■ India has so far remained a responsible nuclear power despite not being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India's bid to enter the Nuclear Suppliers Group has been supported by several countries only because of its clean nuclear record. It's unfortunate that the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's ambiguous statement will undermine India's credibility in the global arena. The change in the 'No First Use' policy could create an arms race in the region. This

would also betray the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

VIDHYA B. RAGUNATH,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

■ A rebellious Hooda

In spite of its poor performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and knowing well that it is a sinking ship, the high command of the Indian National Congress party has still not learnt how to revitalise the party to take on the BJP. The grand old party seems to be committing a mistake in former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's case ("Hooda keeps everyone guessing", August 19). Mr. Hooda has been the Chief Minister twice and has a large following, so the Congress should not be egoistic; it should try to solve the issue amicably. His comments on Article 370 should be treated as his personal view. It will be a testing time for the interim president of the party, Sonia Gandhi, to set

things right in Haryana.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

Head coach again

The reappointment of Ravi Shastri as Team India's head coach was on expected lines and is wise ('Sport' page, "Ravi Shastri's tryst

Crouching tiger, hidden data

The forest bureaucracy has ensured that tiger survey data continue to be withheld from independent scrutiny



ULLAS KARANTH

The fourth national tiger survey has generated much euphoria, whereas the first one in 2006 had cast a pall of gloom. However, missing from all the four survey reports are details necessary to assess the reliability of the tiger numbers. A brief history of India's tiger censuses can shed some light on this issue. The tradition of reporting tiger numbers dates back to the 1970s. These numbers were based on the 'pugmark census method', which simple-mindedly assumed that the pugmarks of every tiger could be found, recognised and tallied. As scientific critiques showed, these assumptions failed, rendering the numbers meaningless. However, the forest bureaucracy (the Ministry of Environment and allied institutions) ignored the problem for decades.

New methods

In the 1990s, many tiger scientists and statistical ecologists working in collaboration developed robust new methods for tiger monitoring. These methods could estimate numbers using 'distance sampling' and the extent of tiger habitat employing 'occupancy sampling of tiger spoor'. Critically, they could even directly estimate numbers, survival rates and recruitment in each population employing 'photographic capture-recapture sampling'. These methods were independently honed in tiger reserves across India and over 25,000 sq km in the Western Ghats harbouring 20% of India's tigers.

By 2004, the new methods had rapidly been adopted worldwide for assessing populations of threatened cat species such as leopards and jaguars. However, the Director of India's Project Tiger derided these as fancy sampling methods, inferior to India's indigenous pugmark census.

Then in 2005 came the shocking revelation that all tigers in Sariska Reserve had been poached, even as the pugmark censuses claimed all was well. A Tiger Task Force (TTF) appointed by the Prime Minister discarded the pugmark census. The Di-



Tiger cubs at Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve near Nagpur in Maharashtra.

■ K.R. DEEPAK

rector of Project Tiger performed a breathtaking backflip, now denouncing the pugmark census as "trash".

I had hoped these dramatic events would lead to a serious revamping of India's tiger monitoring methods. India's remarkable conservation efforts had rescued the tiger from the brink of extinction; they deserved an honest evaluation to identify both successes and failures. The dire situation demanded technically rigorous tiger population surveys conducted by independent, qualified scientists.

However, blocking this progress was a serious conflict of interest: The same forest bureaucracy that managed tiger populations was also expected to assess its own successes or failures by monitoring tiger populations. This had led to the fiascos in Sariska and other places.

Changes in tiger numbers, survival rates, and recruitment in key tiger populations have to be monitored every year to track the fate of tigers in real time. Periodic assessments of colonisation and extinction of tiger populations across larger regions by employing the cost-effective 'occupancy sampling of tiger spoor' method are required. A public-private partnership framework led by qualified scientists is needed to conduct such independent monitoring. However, instead of calling for better monitoring methods, TTF ended up further strengthening bureaucratic monopoly over tiger monitoring. Inevitably, the new National Tiger Estimation method, also created by the forest bureaucracy, ignored or distorted critical elements underpinning the new tiger survey methods. These flaws were masked by misleading technical jargon, hype about ad-

vanced technologies and cursory reviews by 'foreign experts'.

Consequently, in spite of all the effort and expenditure, four tiger surveys have not generated ecologically credible results. Nor are they practically useful. For instance, in spite of spending crores of rupees on official tiger research and monitoring, the government has failed to generate estimates of annual rates of changes in tiger numbers, survival or recruitment in tiger populations at key sites.

Plainly put, the tiger numbers reported are useful only to generate the media spin to meet the needs of the forest bureaucracy and to satisfy momentary public curiosity. This is clear from the 2006 survey report, which made a bold confession: India's tiger numbers had collapsed by a massive 61% (from 3,642 to 1,411 tigers) in just four years! This made no sense because the first number was from the discredited pugmark census and the second from the wobbly new survey method.

However, this confession killed three birds with one stone. It gained public acceptance of the new "scientific method"; it set an unrealistically low baseline of 1,400 tigers, around which future claims could be tailored; and the National Tiger Conservation Authority walked away unblemished from tiger declines, blaming them on State governments.

The results of subsequent surveys show that the new methodology is flexible enough to generate increases or decreases in coarse-scale estimates of tiger numbers and habitat occupancy. And this is what seems to be going on now, in preparation for claiming a 'doubling' of India's tiger population at the next Global Tiger

Summit in 2022.

Over the past decade, independent researchers have published several critiques of the design, models and flaws in field implementation in India's tiger surveys. Most of them had to rely on sparse information gleaned from skimpy survey results in the public domain. The magnitude of the problem that could be revealed by a deeper examination of actual survey data is mind-boggling. The forest bureaucracy, however, has stubbornly blocked qualified scientists from conducting any such deeper scrutiny. The astuteness with which it has maintained monopolistic control over tiger monitoring is a testimony to its political skills.

Nothing has changed

While releasing the 2010 tiger survey results, Planning Commission Member Montek Singh Ahluwalia suggested "aggregate tiger survey data" to be shared in the public domain. He pointed out how Economics had progressed through such data transparency. Unfortunately, nothing has changed since. The hiding of tiger data by the forest bureaucracy is in clear defiance of scientific ethics and public interest. Sadly, even larger conservation NGOs have not challenged this.

When Prime Minister Indira Gandhi set out to rescue India's wild tigers, there were less than 2,000 left. Intense struggles of foresters and conservationists for five decades resulted in sporadic population recoveries at some sites, and continuing losses elsewhere. How many tigers should India now aspire for, given that habitat potential exists for 10,000-15,000 tigers? The current crop of forest bureaucrats, in spite of being flush with resources, believe we cannot have more than 3,500. Surely a nation aspiring to be a \$5 trillion economy should set its sights higher? India's political leadership recognises past successes achieved by infusing creativity and private enterprise in sectors like communication technology. These became possible only after jettisoning inefficient, over-funded, self-serving government monopolies, not by pandering to them. Conservation cannot be an exception.

K. Ullas Karanth is Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru. Views are personal

Can a CDS act as a catalyst for further defence reforms?

In India, a strategic process delivers results only when it is backed by political heft, which this government can provide



ARJUN SUBRAMANIAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement from the ramparts of the Red Fort that India will soon have a Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) is a welcome step and reflects a multi-sectoral urgency within the government to initiate reform. To be honest, this writer had earlier been sceptical about such a measure because of the fear that it would be a piecemeal step without any accompanying change in the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

While the previous dispensations did not display the seriousness and political will needed to view the military as a tool of statecraft, this government's approach seems to be different. The close involvement of the political leadership, ever since the cross-border strikes into Myanmar, in the military's operational matters has probably given it a bird's-eye view of the necessary reforms.

Further, even while acknowledging the military's contribution to national security, Mr. Modi has often expressed concerns about the lack of synergy within the armed forces – not to the media, but directly to the senior leadership of the forces at the Unified Commanders' Conference.

The three services, on their part, have been involved in sparring for space in this debate by protecting their respective turf and trying to orchestrate some middle-level reform. Here again, this writer has repeatedly argued that to be effective, a top-down approach to defence reform is the only way forward.

Questions and challenges

So, will the CDS be a glorified Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, or will he be an empowered bridge between the military and the political leadership? Will the government be bold enough to immediately assign him operational responsibilities in a phased manner, or will it follow an incremental approach of first entrusting him with issues such as acquisitions, training and policy? Will there be an accompanying reform in the MoD? These are among the questions that merit serious reflection. It also needs to be assessed whether the military ecosystem has kept pace with the rapid changes in warfare and geopolitics.

The demands and challenges confronting a CDS will be of the kind that the military leadership has never faced before. Balancing national interests, shedding his own service affiliations, and looking after the interests of all the three services will always be a tough act. He must also have the world view and political awareness necessary to engage with diverse stakeholders. As seen from the Western experience, this will happen only after years of joint-service assignments, an exposure to working with government and educational interludes in a military career.

India currently faces multiple security challenges. Ingrained with a mindset shaped by conflicts and face-offs on its land frontiers and near-continuous internal armed conflicts, India's security landscape has been naturally dominated by the Indian Army. Balancing this reality with a realisation that both maritime and air power are going to play an increasingly important role in India's rise as a leading power will be among the initial strategic challenges any CDS faces.

Achieving inter-services synergy

Whether the creation of CDS will lead to the creation of 'integrated theatre commands' is too early to predict. However, four of the immediate tasks for the CDS are: improving inter-services synergy and laying the road map for time-bound integration; attaining seamless integration of the MoD with service headquarters; assuming the operational responsibilities for all tri-service commands and agencies; and steering the creation of integrated battle groups for various contingencies as a precursor to validating the concept of theatre commands.

Cynics will argue that given the difficulties faced by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff – who had been tasked with a large part of this mandate almost two decades ago – to push for reform at the desired pace, how will the CDS succeed? The simple answer is that, in India, only when political heft is attached to a strategic process will it deliver results. A classic example is the ongoing, politically driven, shift from a reactive and restrained form of deterrence to a more proactive and preventive form. Having bitten the bullet, the Modi government has the needed momentum to not just appoint a CDS, but to continue with a top-down reform of national security structures.

Arjun Subramaniam is a retired Air Vice Marshal from the Indian Air Force and a visiting professor at Ashoka University

Navarros on the ascendant

What explains the trend of economists taking odd policy positions, defying scholarly evidence?

CHIRANTAN CHATTERJEE

The term 'Navarro recession' was recently coined in the U.S. media, and highlights the manner in which misguided trade and currency policies by the current U.S. administration, guided by economist Peter Navarro, may be creating distortions in the economy, leading to a slowdown. Apparently, U.S. President Donald Trump overruled all his economic advisers but Mr. Navarro in imposing new tariffs on China.

This begs the broader question of whether economies across the world are in turmoil because of the rise of the 'Navarros', with trained economists taking unconventional policy positions that undermine market expectations and scholarly evidence on free markets. In some cases, they seem to have received robust training in U.S. universities such as the University of Chicago. This argument applies to Brazil, Turkey, India and Hungary.



This is interesting since, perhaps for the first time in many decades, theology and divinity are jointly influencing economic policy decisions.

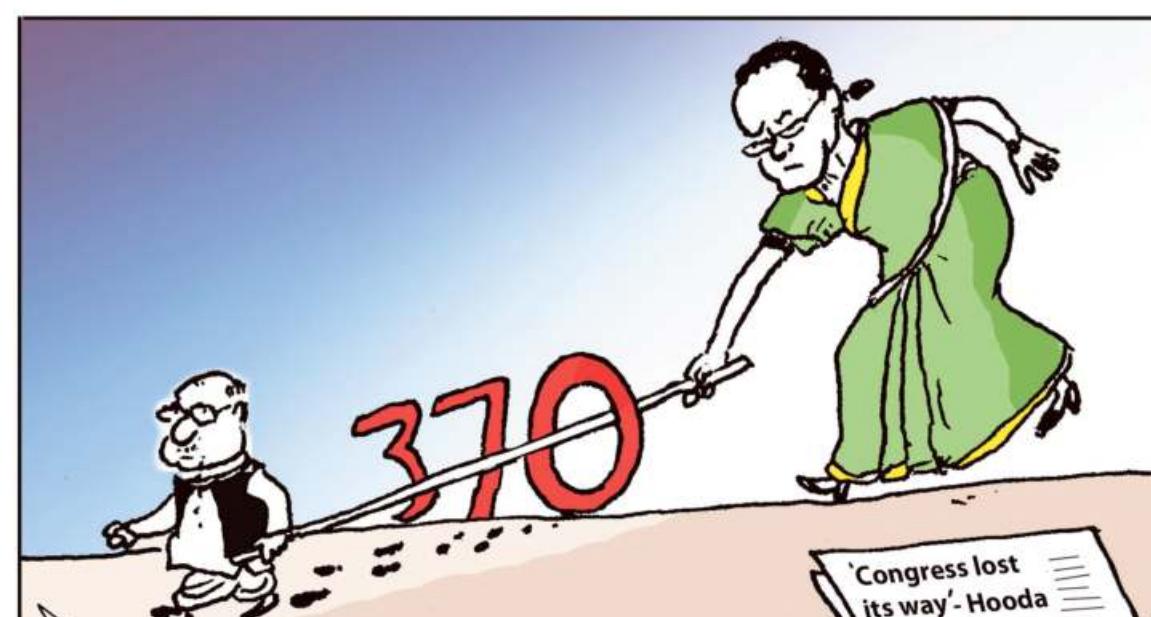
Maa Sharada and Article 370

In India, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) K.V. Subramanian, also a Chicago-trained economist, invoked Indian goddess Maa Sharada, whom he also referred to as 'Kashmira Pura Vasisi', while welcoming the government's decision to abrogate Article 370, the constitutional provision granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir. One would have expected the CEA to outline a policy pathway to incentivise entrepreneurship, economic growth and development in Kashmir, but nothing much has been said on that by his office yet. This is all the more remarkable when we consider the fact that he and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are struggling to revive a slowing economy. Meanwhile, in Hungary, Lajos Simicska, an oligarch and friend of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, guided the Orban economics of fear and his policy of setting up of large nationalised organisations. However, he has since fallen out of favour with the Hungarian Prime Minister.

Overall, these examples point to a larger trend as the discipline of economics tries to reinvent itself to adjust to globalisation and automation, factors that have created inequality and have been instrumental in the growth of social unrest and the rise of populists across the world.

Should these 'Navarros' be allowed to capture the pole positions in economic policymaking and guide the new economics of a populist world? What explains their rise and unconventional stances? Even more, how are their policy ideas impacting and deepening social and economic distortions? The answers are not clear yet, but their examination cannot be postponed any longer.

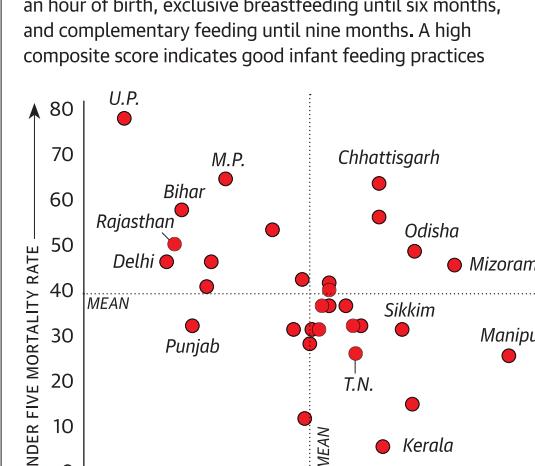
Chirantan Chatterjee is ICICI Bank Chair in Strategic Management at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad



DATA POINT

Variably nourished

U.P., the worst off The chart plots the composite score of three feeding indicators against State-wise under-five mortality rates. The composite score is based on % values of the following indicators: initiation of breastfeeding within an hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding until six months, and complementary feeding until nine months. A high composite score indicates good infant feeding practices



Most States with an above average score have a lower under-five child mortality rate while States with a poor composite score tend to have a higher under-five child mortality rate (per 1000 live births)

Uttar Pradesh has a composite score of 3.32, the lowest, and under-five mortality rate of 78, the highest, in India.

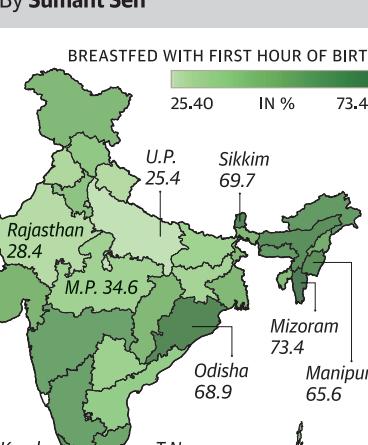
Manipur has the highest composite score (7.27) and is one of the best performing States for under-five mortality rate (26)

Source: Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices Report Card (Health Ministry), NFHS-4, UNICEF REPORT 2018

U.P., Rajasthan and Bihar fare the worst among States in breastfeeding. Infant mortality under the age of five is relatively higher in these States than others. In India, less than 50% of newly borns receive breast milk within the first hour of their birth, a low number compared to other developing countries. By Suman Sen

Best in Mizoram

Over 73% of newly borns were breastfed within the first hour of birth in Mizoram, the highest percentage in India. According to the WHO, this "first milk" which the infant receives is rich in protective factors and nutrients. A State-wise look



Poorly positioned

Only 41.5% of infants in India received breast milk within the first hour of birth. India was ranked 56 out of 76 nations that were surveyed. Sri Lanka topped the charts with 90%

Rank	Country	Infants who received breast milk within first hour of birth (%)
1	Sri Lanka	90.3
2	Vanuatu	85.4
3	Burundi	85
4	Kazakhstan	83.3
5	Kyrgyzstan	82.5
56	India	41.5

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 20, 1969

DMK ready for agitation

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam will launch an agitation if the Centre refused to accept its plea for greater autonomy to the State Governments, declared Mr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, in the Tamil Nadu Assembly to-day [August 19]. The Chief Minister said the Government had appointed a committee headed by Mr. P. Rajamannar, former Chief Justice of Madras High Court, to recommend in what manner the powers may be reallocated between the Centre and States. The State Government would place the recommendations of the Committee before the Centre and try to "persuade" it to accept them. "If we fail in our persuasion, we will launch an agitation", Mr. Karunanidhi said. He said the D.M.K. had never hesitated to spearhead agitations to achieve its objects. The Chief Minister asked Mr. M. P. Sivagnanam, leader of the Tamil Arasu Kazhagam, to abandon his one-day token agitation proposed to be launched to-morrow, to demand greater autonomy for States.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 20, 1919. Soldier, Explorer and Naturalist. (Book review)

No picture of late President Theodore Roosevelt is more familiar to the average man than that which represents him as a fighter and a man of action, not merely a militant advocate of aggressive Imperialism, but the champion of popular liberties and honest government against organised forces of privilege and corruption. It is naturally in this light that Hermann Hagedorn [the author] exhibits the object of his admiration. The stubborn courage and dogged persistence, the resolution to "carry through" in the face of all difficulties, the consciousness of the vital importance of realising in modern social and political life the good old common place virtues which all assume but few practise – these and other qualities which distinguished the late President stand out in vivid relief in the pages of this work. Alike as a young man resolving to live up to the ideals embodied in the deeds of his heroes; as a statesman putting into practice radical schemes of reform in the teeth of the ungracious hostility of the 'interest'; as a ranchman; as colonel of the "Rough Riders" charging wildly at the Spaniards; as a naturalist hunting

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K schools reopen, attendance thin

In volatile south Kashmir, Mr. Malik said only local staff attended Pulwama schools but students' attendance was thin. "In Shopian and Kulgam, attendance was nil to very thin," he added.

The government plans to open middle schools from Wednesday. "The presence of the staff was an encouraging sign," said Mr. Malik.

All top mainstream leaders of the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), including Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Nayem Akhtar, Sajad Lone, Shah Faesal and Engineer Rashid,

remain in detention. Government officials said these cases were being reviewed.

Srinagar Secretariat witnessed 75% attendance, according to officials. Many employees complained that their offices were targeted with stones by protesters in Bemina and other localities in Srinagar city.

DIG B.K. Birdi said restrictions have been extended to 50% police stations in Kashmir.

Mr. Birdi said there were minor incidents of stone-pelting in areas like Nigeen and Safakadal in the city. "They were dealt with as per the law," he added.

NRC issues may be dealt with via legislative route

Mr. Sonowal said there were apprehensions about the law and order situation when the part draft and the final draft of the NRC were published in 2018. "But with the cooperation of the peo-

ple, everything went off peacefully. This time also, with the active support of the Centre and as per the expectations of the people, the NRC will be published on August 31," he said.

Opposition slams RSS over Bhagwat's remark

Mohan Bhagwat

Those who favour reservation should speak keeping in mind the interests of those who are against it, and similarly those who oppose it should do the same, he had said.

"The anti-Dalit-backward face of the RSS-BJP has been exposed," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Jhunjhunwala tweeted.

"The conspiracy to end reservation for the poor and the policy of changing the Constitution have been uncovered," he said in a post on Twitter.

Senior Congress leader P.L. Punia, along with former BJP MP Udit Raj, who had joined the Congress just before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, addressed a press conference where they alleged that whenever the BJP had come to power at the Centre, it had tried to review the basic structure of the Constitution.

"They [RSS-BJP] want to end reservation either in the name of reviewing the Con-

T.N. CM promises to redress issues in 30 daysSTAFF REPORTER
SALEM

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday launched a scheme under which officials will meet people to receive petitions and redress their grievances within a maximum of 30 days. Launching the Chief Minister Special Grievance Redressal Programme in his native Edappadi Assembly constituency in Salem, Mr. Palaniswami said that the programme will be held in

each taluk across the State, and added that a sum of ₹76.25 lakh has been earmarked for this purpose. The Revenue and Disaster Management Department will conduct the programme.

The CM said that after necessary publicity, on a date announced by the District Collectors, an inter-departmental team including officials from Revenue, Rural Development and Urban Development departments will collect petitions.

"We are politically committed to completing the Jaitapur nuclear power project, which is being built in partnership with France. A statement regarding the project was made as the External Affairs Ministry announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the outreach session of the G7 meet at Biarritz, France, where India is a special invitee.

"We are politically committed to completing the Jaitapur nuclear power project as soon as possible. In December 2018, we have signed the Industrial Way Forward Agreement. The techno commercial offer is in active discussion between the technical agencies," said G. Balasubramanian, Joint Secretary, Western Europe Division in the Ministry.

The visit to Biarritz is part of the multi-nation tour that Mr. Modi will undertake from August 23. He will visit the UAE, Bahrain and

France. The invitation to visit France was extended by President Emmanuel Macron after Mr. Modi was re-elected to a second term in office.

At the G7 summit, Mr. Modi is expected to highlight climate change and counter-terrorism with partner countries.

The interactions with the French leadership is likely to include solar energy and multilateral.

The Indian leader is expected to hold several bilateral meeting with global leaders, though the Ministry did not confirm the meetings.

SC dismisses Tehelka founder's pleaLEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by Tarun Tejpal, founder of Tehelka magazine to quash a case of sexual assault brought by a Goa court in 2017.

The charges were serious and amounted to an attack on privacy, the Supreme Court said.

It fixed a deadline of six months for completion of the trial, saying it was already delayed.

The case concerns the alleged sexual assault on a former colleague by Mr. Tejpal inside a hotel elevator in Goa in 2013.

Mr. Tejpal has been out on bail since May 2014.

CM

YK

Unnao: CBI gets 14 days more

U.P. govt. told to pay interim compensation of ₹5 lakh for medical expenses

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the CBI an extension of two weeks to complete investigation into a road accident that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer critical and instantly killed two women relatives travelling with them.

A Bench led by Justice Deepak Gupta was informed by the CBI side that the girl and the lawyer continue to be in a critical stage in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here and their statements were yet to be recorded.

The investigating agency sought a month's time, but the court gave a fortnight. The Bench further directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay the lawyer's family an interim compensation of ₹5 lakh towards his medical expenses.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGES LIKELY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI may file a supplementary chargesheet in connection with the alleged murder of the Unnao rape victim's father in judicial custody last year. On Monday, the agency informed a city court that it would furnish more substantial evidence. A status report on the investigation is expected within a week. A joint trial

in the assault and murder cases will start on Thursday.

Clubbing both the cases, the court has framed charges against expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and nine other accused, including three former Uttar Pradesh police officers. It is alleged that the victim's father was assaulted and framed in an Arms Act case for allegedly possessing a country-made firearm and live cartridges.

The court on August 1 directed the transfer of the accident case to Delhi, but the next day, modified its order to the extent of deferring the transfer till the investigation got over. The modification came in an order on August 2 after the CBI told the court

that an immediate transfer would lead to jurisdictional hiccups for the Judicial Magistrate, CBI, Lucknow, to remand the accused and for granting permission to the CBI for custodial interrogation of the accused.

The court had given the

CBI seven to a maximum of 14 days to complete the probe. The "accident" that occurred on July 28 left the 19-year-old victim and her lawyer critical and killed two of her aunts. A speeding truck rammed their car.

Uncannily, days before the accident, the Unnao victim had reached out to the CJI in a letter. But her cry for help largely remained unnoticed in the court's registry for almost a fortnight.

The survivor in a letter, dated July 12, had spelt out the threats to her life and her family from the accused, who included Kuldeep Singh Sengar, a four-time BJP MLA from U.P.'s Bangermau. The letter landed at the Supreme Court Registry on July 17 but did not reach the CJI's table till July 30 - well after the accident.

The next hearing of the case will be on September 6.



All smiles: Congress chief whip Mahesh Joshi, second from left, receiving the election certificate for Manmohan Singh at the Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manmohan elected unopposed to RS

A matter of pride for Rajasthan: Gehlot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was on Monday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. Dr. Singh, 86, the Congress candidate, was declared elected after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BJP State president Madan Lal Saini on June 24. Saini was elected to the Upper House last year.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi congratulated Mr. Singh. "I congratulate former PM Dr Manmohan Singhji on being elected unopposed as a member of Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. Dr. Singh's election is a matter of pride for entire state. His vast knowledge and rich experience would benefit the people of Rajasthan a lot," Mr. Gehlot tweeted.

Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi received the election certificate on behalf of Dr. Singh from the Returning Officer and Assembly Secretary Pramil Kumar Mathur. ■

Notice to Chidambaram in aviation scam

Statement to be recorded on August 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned the former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram for recording his statement in connection with the purchase of 43 Airbus aircraft when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was in power. An ED official said his statement would be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on August 23.



The investigation is based on an FIR, registered in May 2017, by the CBI alleging irregularities in the purchase of 43 aircraft from Airbus and 68 from Boeing at about

on May 15, 2017 against alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance provided to INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of ₹305 crore in 2007, when Mr. Chidambaram was Finance Minister.

Group of Ministers led by Mr. Chidambaram. The ED is investigating if the profitable routes of the national carrier were surrendered to favour some airlines.

HC verdict on bail plea todaySTAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court will on Tuesday pronounce its verdict on the anticipatory bail plea of Congress leader P. Chidambaram in the INX Media case. The case relates to a First Information Report registered by the CBI

₹70,000 crore. Former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel had earlier said that the decision was a collective one and the purchase was approved by the Empowered

met for a closed meeting on Kashmir last week.

In recent years, India has insisted on getting bilateral assurance from visiting heads of states and governments, but permanent member countries such as the U.K., the U.S., Russia and France have expressed support bilaterally without actively collaborating with India in the UN for expanding the council.

Diplomats have blamed China for having quietly carried out a campaign to stop the draft resolution from acquiring speed. Veteran diplomats said that the latest UNSC meeting on Kashmir which was convened following an initiative from China showed that India will have to show more "stamina" to stop China from using the organ against India's interest. The issue of expanding the UNSC and the Text Based Negotiation is expected to come up in the next UN General Assembly session in September, which will throw open a new round of multilateral diplomacy.

Delivering a joint G4 statement on behalf of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, India's Permanent Representative Syed Akbaruddin had said.

Yet recent speeches by the diplomat at the "Plenary on the Intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council" indicate internal delays and differences among members that is hindering India's quest.

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Energy likely to be on Modi's agenda at G7 visit

India is a special invitee at the meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India remains politically committed to the completion of the Jaitapur nuclear power project, which is being built in partnership with France. A statement regarding the project was made as the External Affairs Ministry announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the outreach session of the G7 meet at Biarritz, France, where India is a special invitee.



France. The invitation to visit France was extended by President Emmanuel Macron after Mr. Modi was re-elected to a second term in office.

At the G7 summit, Mr. Modi is expected to highlight climate change and counter-terrorism with partner countries.

The interactions with the French leadership is likely to include solar energy and multilateral.

The Indian leader is expected to hold several bilateral meeting with global leaders, though the Ministry did not confirm the meetings.

keeping. Diplomats here suggest that a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN is required to push for a UNGA resolution to expand the UN Security Council.

NATIONAL INTEREST

One of the key historic reasons for India's quest for a permanent seat at the UNSC was to ensure protection of national interest in crucial diplomatic moments when the organ takes up contentious issues such as Kashmir.

India seems to have depended on the argument that it is entitled to a seat at the UNSC because of multiple factors such as population, growing economic stature and growing global responsibilities like peace-

keeping. Diplomats here suggest that a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN is required to push for a UNGA resolution to expand the UN Security Council.

DELIVERING A JOINT STATEMENT

Delivering a joint G4 statement on behalf of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, India's Permanent Representative Syed Akbaruddin had said.

Jagannath Mishra, former Bihar Chief Minister, deadAMARNATH TEWARI
PATNA

Communities push for domicile laws

Pandits, Dogras and Buddhists demand maintenance of current population status, rights over land

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

With the revoking of the special status of Kashmir, Pandits, Dogras and Buddhists have made separate demands for domicile laws in the proposed Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The reasons they cite include the need to maintain the current population status, ensuring jobs for local people and the rights over land.

BJP State spokesman Ashwani Kumar Chhingoo, who is a Kashmiri Pandit who left the Valley in the 1990s, told *The Hindu* that the domicile laws were "the need of the hour".

"The first preference for jobs should be given to locals. The government should fix quotas for locals. These locals should also be allowed to compete for the rest of job quota in open merit too. This is in vogue in many States," he said.

An obstacle

Mr. Chhingoo opposed the Union Territory status. "Who would like a UT status for all time? Unfortunately, the local leadership was becoming an obstacle to elimi-



Fenced in: Restrictions continued in Srinagar for the 15th day on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

nating terrorism and containing law and order situation. The next five years are crucial now to establish peace. It remains a reality that a Kashmiri cannot live without the aspects of culture and civilisation. I don't foresee a change in demography," he said.

He called for a road map for the return of the Pandits to the Valley. "This time, Pandits will come on a per-

manent basis. We would not like transit camps here. It should not be that people will leave in winters and return in summers. For that, Pandits should be given freedom of expression within the Valley and a sense of security by locals. Their political empowerment and social cohesion should follow it. They should not beg for any security," Mr. Chhingoo said. Jamyang Tsering Nam-

gal, Ladakh MP, has filed a memorandum with Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda for tribal status to ensure that the land rights stayed with the local community.

Biggest problem

"The biggest problem of the tribal population is to protect its identity, culture, land and economy," Mr. Namgyal said in the memorandum,

seeking tribal status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution on the lines of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. He also appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah "to protect the demography of Ladakh", which has 55% Muslims and 45% Buddhists.

Kargil-based leader Haji Inayat met Mr. Munda for guarantees on land rights and jobs.

DMK to lead protest in Delhi against Kashmir detentions

To stress on immediate release of political leaders

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

A joint Opposition protest organised by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), demanding immediate release of political leaders under preventive detention in Kashmir, will be held at the Jantar Mantar here on Thursday.

The Congress, the Trinamool, the CPI(M) and the CPI have confirmed participation. Leaders from other political parties are being contacted.

Single agenda

DMK Parliamentary Party leader T.R. Baalu told *The Hindu* that the single-point agenda of the protest was to demand the release of political leaders.

"We are demanding release of political leaders of Kashmir. Almost all like-minded parties will be attending.

T.R. BAALU
DMK leader

After the presidential order to amend Article 370 and reorganise Jammu and Kashmir was cleared in the Rajya Sabha, the DMK held a multi-party meeting in Chennai.

The meeting passed a resolution demanding that the opinion of people elicited through an elected government should be first taken before implementing the changes.

Three former Chief Minis-

ters, Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, seven former Ministers, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of Srinagar, bureaucrat-turned politician Shah Faesal and Congress State president Ghulam Ahmad Mir are among the many either under house arrest or detained in government facilities.

Many parties had approached the Congress to organise a protest or lead a delegation to Srinagar but with its leadership crisis, the party remained non-committal.

The party has not organised a protest even in the capital.

On Sunday, at a rally in Haryana, Congress leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Hooda challenged the position taken by the Congress on the issue, saying the party had "lost its way".

Mr. Azad, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI general secretary D. Raja were stopped at the Srinagar airport by the security forces. Only the Left parties have held a protest in the capital on the issue.

IMA slams *Lancet* for Kashmir piece

'Interference in India's internal affairs'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Doctors across India have raised serious objections to what they say is "an unfortunate turn of events where a reputed medical journal *The Lancet* has committed breach of propriety in commenting on India's political issue".

A letter released by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday said the medical fraternity in India had taken a dim view of the editorial "Fear and uncertainty around Kashmir's future" published in the journal on August 17.

"It is amounting to interference into an internal matter of India. *The Lancet* has no standing on the issue of Kashmir. Kashmir issue is a legacy that the British Empire left behind," the association said.

"The Lancet has reacted to an internal administrative decision of [the] Government."

Pak. alleges cross-border fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SRINAGAR

Pakistan on Monday said Indian troops fired across the Line of Control in Kashmir, killing two civilians and wounding another.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that civilian casualties occurred on Sunday because of "un-

provoked ceasefire violations" by India in the border villages of Hot Spring and Chirikot.

The military said two men aged 75 and 61 were killed.

It said two Indian troops were killed, but there was no immediate comment from New Delhi.

From BJP ally to detenu, Lone caught in political quicksands

He was tipped to be CM with BJP support last year

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Less than a year after having been on the cusp of forming a government with BJP support and PDP rebels in Jammu & Kashmir, Sajad Lone, president of the People's Conference, now finds himself under "preventive detention" in a three-star hotel in Srinagar.

Party spokesperson Adnan Ashraf Mir, who met the former separatist-turned-politician on August 6, two days after he was detained, said that several security personnel stood guard outside Mr. Lone's room at the Centaur Hotel and the only TV channel the People's Conference leader had been given access to was Doordarshan News.

Dark day

"When I met him at the hotel, he told me he was in shock and it was a dark day for the people of Kashmir and the rest of India. These were his only words," Mr. Mir told *The Hindu* in Delhi.

Mr. Mir added that he and a couple of other party persons had managed to meet Mr. Lone for about 30 minutes on August 6, the only time Mr. Lone had been allowed to speak to anyone following his detention. "We told the security people that we had to give him some medicines. They allowed us. But throughout our meet-



Sajad Lone

ing, the cops were present in the room. The accommodation is decent," Mr. Mir said.

Mr. Lone's father, Abdul Gani Lone, was killed by unidentified assailants in 2002. Mr. Lone's party had two MLAs in the J&K Assembly that was dissolved last year.

A Kashmiri politician who had once referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his elder brother, Mr. Lone was in talks with rebel members of the PDP to form a government with the BJP's support in J&K last year after the BJP-PDP government collapsed, and before the Assembly was dissolved in November.

"More than 100 party cadres have either been detained or arrested, we don't have an exact number as our constituencies are in the border areas," Mr. Mir said. "News can still trickle in from Srinagar, but it takes time to get any information from border areas. I am the only member of my party

who has not been held," said Mr. Mir, who said he came to Delhi on August 10.

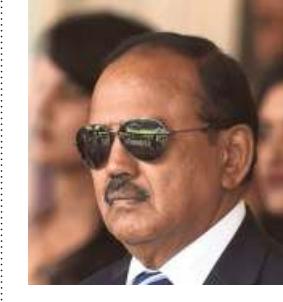
"I was not detained as they wouldn't have considered me important enough, but all the leaders who could mobilise public opinion have been put in jail or makeshift detention camps," he said. "There is no point in being silent now, if we don't speak up now, it will be too late."

Midnight detention

Mr. Mir said that he was talking on the phone with his party leader on the night of August 4 when some security personnel came knocking on Mr. Lone's door.

"This was around 11.30 p.m. He sensed there was some trouble. For a day he was kept at his official residence under house arrest; he was shifted to Centaur a day later," Mr. Mir said, adding that Mr. Lone's wife had also not been allowed to meet him.

The Home Ministry and the J&K administration have declined to divulge the number of persons in "preventive detention" since August 5. Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh had earlier told *The Hindu* that the total number of politicians or political workers taken into "preventive detention" was not centrally available as the decisions were being taken at the local level.



Doval holds meeting with Amit Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other senior officials on Monday.

Though the agenda of the meeting was not known, an official said the present situation in Kashmir could have been among the subjects of discussion.

Mr. Doval refused to answer questions as he emerged from the meeting. He dodged the question on the total number of political persons in "preventive detention".

Mr. Doval camped in the Valley for 10 days and monitored the situation.

Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar were present.

India, China review border situation

Joint Working Group meets in Beijing

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India and China reviewed the situation on the border and agreed on more port calls by each other's Navies as part of measures to improve military-to-military cooperation at a meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Defence Ministries in Beijing last week.

CORE ISSUES

"The focus of the discussions was on border management, more port calls and activities linked to the celebration of 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries between April 2020 and March 2021," a defence source said on

Monday. The JWG meeting coincided with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to China to prepare for the second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in October.

The JWG meeting was held on August 13 and 14.

The Indian delegation was led by a Joint Secretary from the Defence Ministry along with a one-star officer each from the three Services. The JWG discussions will be followed by the annual defence and security dialogue headed by the Defence Secretary. There is also a proposed visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to China by year-end.

NOTIFICATION

The Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha on behalf of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha is conducting a pre-bidding meeting with the Registered Manufacturers scheduled to be held on 22.08.2019 at 3.30 PM in the conference hall of IMAGE, Bhubaneswar-751003 to discuss regarding modalities of procurement of Need Based Inputs, like Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Micronutrients, Bio-Fertilizer, Organic Fertilizer, Plant Growth Regulator, Pheromone Traps & Lures, etc. during the year 2019-20 for subsidized sale.

All the registered Manufacturers may attend the meeting for awareness of the newly introduced system of subsidy sale to farmers of the state.

40-L

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DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA

KERALA STATE FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
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E-mail: ksfldcltd@gmail.com / ksfldcltd@gmail.com Web: www.ksfdc.in

Re-Tender Notice

No.3320/P1/19/KSFDC

Dt. 19.08.2019

e-Tenders (Second call) are invited for selecting the "Project Management Consultant" for the construction of Cultural Complexes at Palakkad, Kasaragod and Kollam (Estimated Cost Rs. 137.87 Cr) and for the construction of Cinema Theatre Complexes at Alappuzha, Perambra, Kayamkulam, and Payyanur (Estimated Cost Rs. 47.13 Cr) For details visit website: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
S/d Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Water Resources Department
E-Procurement Tender Cum Auction (Reverse Tendering)
No.02/2019-20 Dt. 17.08.2019

Name of Work : Polavaram Irrigation Project Head Works – Package No.65- Construction of Irrigation Tunnel about 919 m long, left flank Head regulator, Navigation Lock, excavation of Approach channels (I & II), Exit channel and Navigation Channel (Balance Work), (LS. Contract System).

Value of Work (approx.) : Rs.275.00 Crs. Time for Completion of Work: 18 Months. Bid document available Date & Time: From 19.08.2019 @ 11.00 AM to 02.09.2019 @ 11.00 AM. Last date for receipt of tenders: 02.09.2019 upto 4.00 PM. Technical bid opening date & Time: 03.09.2019 @ 5.00 PM. Price bid opening date & Time: 09.09.2019 @ 11.00 AM. E-Auction bidding date & Time: 09.09.2019 @ 1.00 PM onwards. Further details <http://tender.apeprourement.gov.in>

Contact No.0883-2417558

Sd/-K.P.Sankara Rao, 17.08.19
Superintendent Engineer(FAC),
PIPWH Circle, Dowlaishwaram.
DIPR 93PP/CL, Dt.19.08.2019

IDCO **ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES** **ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022
TENDER CALL NOTICE
IDCO invites Request For Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders to participate in the tendering process for supply and installation of the items given in the table below indicating Cost of Tender Paper and EMD. The interested bidders can download the RFP documents from IDCO website from 20.08.2019 to 31.08.2019 up to 5.00 PM. Response to RFP should be sent by Registered Post/ Speed Post only so as to reach the Manager (MIS), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 22 on or before 05.09.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Quantity	Cost of Tender paper	EMD
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning including Warranty of Red Hat Enterprises Linux (RHEL) for Virtual Data Centre (3 Year License)	5		
2	Supply, Installation, Commissioning including 3 year Warranty of Red Hat Open Stack Platform (RHOSP) (without Guest OS), Standard (2 Socket) (3 year license)	8	Rs.11,800/- (Including 18% GST)	Rs.6,400/-
3	Server for installation of NMS (EMS System)	1		

For details, please contact to Mr. Kabisurya Singh, Mob No. 9658506450 during office hours. For further assistance, please email to mis@idco.in.
Sd/-
Manager (MIS)

'He never committed a crime; nor was he named in an FIR'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition moved before the Delhi High Court on Monday has sought the "immediate release" of former IAS officer Shah Faesal, alleging that he has been illegally detained in Srinagar.

The plea by a *Pariyakar*, or next of friend, alleged that Mr. Faesal was illegally picked up from the New Delhi airport when on his way to complete his academic fellowship at Harvard University, U.S., on the intervening night of August 14 and 15.

The case came up for hearing before a Bench of Justices Manmohan and Sangeeta Dhingra Sehgal, which, however, did not issue notice in the matter after Solici-



Shah Faesal

tor-General Tushar Mehta said the Centre would file a response to the plea. The court will hear the case on August 23.

</div

Troops assemble on Hong Kong border

Hundreds from the Chinese paramilitary, People's Armed Police, have been deployed in Shenzhen

STEVEN LEE MYERS
JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ
SHENZHEN

The Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre rises along the shore with the green hills of Hong Kong visible across the water. It normally bustles with a variety of youth sports programmes and dance, art and language academies, including one that advertises a "Hong Kong Style Education."

In recent days, however, it has become a staging ground for olive-green military transports and armoured personnel carriers that arrived on August 11 and disgorged hundreds of security officers from the People's Armed Police, a Chinese paramilitary force, who are loudly running through daily exercises and drills.

By massing the troops within view of Hong Kong, the semi-autonomous territory convulsed by protests, China's Communist Party is delivering a strong warning that the use of force remains an option for Beijing. It is also a stark reminder that military power remains the be-

drock of the party's legitimacy.

"It's a credible threat," Minxin Pei, a professor at Claremont McKenna College in California, said. "The Chinese government does not want to leave any doubt that, if necessary, it will act."

China's leader, Xi Jinping, has governed with an increasingly iron fist. The deployment does not appear to be the prelude to a military intervention in Hong Kong, but few analysts expressed doubt that China would act if Mr. Xi believed the country's sovereignty over the territory was jeopardised.

Politically alert'

"How can we regard the Hong Kong movement as a pure democratic movement?" said Tian Feilong, executive director of a research institute on Hong Kong policy in Beijing. Mr. Xi is likely to perceive the protests not just as a call for democracy in Hong Kong, but also as an effort to topple the Communist Party itself, he said. "He is very politically alert."

Mr. Xi's government, he



Upping the ante: Trucks and armoured personnel carriers at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre. ■ NYT

Trump warns against Tiananmen-style action

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has warned China that carrying out a Tiananmen Square-style crackdown on Hong Kong pro-democracy protests

would harm trade talks between the two countries.

"I think it'd be very hard to deal if they do violence, I mean, if it's another Tiananmen Square," Mr. Trump told reporters in New Jersey on Sunday.

said, has most likely completed preparations for an intervention but is holding off as long as the local auth-

orities manage to keep the protests contained. That calculus could change, he and other analysts said, if the

protests succeed in crippling the government or other institutions, like the courts, which will soon begin hearing the first cases of those arrested in the demonstrations. In what some observers see as a worrying sign, officials in Beijing have called the protesters' actions "close to terrorism."

The use of force, however, would be fraught with risks for Mr. Xi. The country and the party are still haunted by the use of the Army to crush the Tiananmen Square protest movement 30 years ago this summer.

A military crackdown could spell the end of Hong Kong's role as a global financial centre and the unique political formula under which Beijing grants the territory freedoms unseen on the mainland.

"The military solution would have many disruptive effects," said Wu Qiang, a political analyst in Beijing. "It would be political suicide for the Communist Party of China and the 'one country, two systems' arrangement of Hong Kong." ■ NY TIMES

66 injured in Afghan blasts

REUTERS
KABUL

A series of bombings struck restaurants and public squares on Monday in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, wounding at least 66 people, officials said, as the country marked the 100th anniversary of its independence.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts 10 bombs but both Islamic State (IS) and the Taliban militants operate in the area.

IS claimed responsibility for a weekend bomb attack on a wedding reception in the capital, Kabul, that killed 63 people and wounded nearly 200.

The Jalalabad bombs were planted near a market where hundreds of people had congregated after attending Independence Day events. Senior health official Fahim Bashari said at least 66 people were wounded, including 20 children enjoying the public holiday.

Ghulam Mohammad, a shopkeeper selling plants, said his two sons and a nephew were among the injured in a blast at the market square.

Independence day ceremonies were disrupted in Mehtarlam, the capital of the eastern province of Laghman, when militants hit a celebration venue with five rockets.

"The formal ceremony had ended," said Assadullah Dawlatzai, a spokesman for the governor.

Iran warns U.S. against bid to seize tanker

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

An Iranian tanker at the centre of an angry confrontation between Iran and Washington sailed for Greece on Monday after it was freed from detention off Gibraltar.

Iran has warned Washington against attempting to seize the vessel, saying such a move would have "heavy consequences".

U.K. to end EU free movement after Brexit

Government plans 'tougher criminality rules for people entering the country'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain said on Monday it will immediately end freedom of movement for people from the European Union after Brexit on October 31, in a policy shift under Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"Freedom of movement will end on October 31 when the U.K. leaves the EU," Downing Street spokesman said.

She added the government planned "tougher criminality rules for people entering the UK" as part of the new hardline stance.

The change comes amid growing fears Britain is set to leave the 28-member bloc without a divorce deal in two and a half months.

Around 3.6 million EU citizens already in Britain have been told to apply for "permanent settled status", un-

der an Interior Ministry scheme started by Mr. Johnson's predecessor Theresa May. So far, only around one million have signed up for the status.

The government said in January that it would end free movement "as soon as possible" after a no-deal Brexit, but keep allowing EU arrivals "for a transitional period only".

Legislation drawn up to

deal with the issue is stuck in Parliament.

Mr. Johnson has said he favours a skills-based immigration system post-Brexit, but Downing Street is yet to unveil full details. Critics representing EU citizens claim he is trying to evade parliamentary scrutiny of his changed stance towards new arrivals after Brexit – and fear those already in Britain could get mistakenly caught out.

General accused of war crimes to head Lanka Army

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights terms Shavendra Silva's appointment 'deeply troubling'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

President Maithripala Sirisena on Monday named a general accused of war crimes as commander of the Sri Lankan Army, sparking concern over the appointment that the UN later termed "deeply troubling".

In his capacity as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the President appointed "Major General Shavendra Silva... as the 23rd Commander of the Army effective August 19 after promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant General," the Army said in a statement.

Mr. Silva commanded the Sri Lankan Army's 58 Division during the final stages of the war against the rebel LTTE in 2009, and was implicated in an incident when white-flag carrying LTTE



Shavendra Silva

cadre, who were surrendering, were reportedly executed after being assured safety.

"I am deeply troubled by the appointment of Lieutenant-General Shavendra Silva as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, despite the serious allegations of gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against him and his troops during the war," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said.

Though different UN probes in the past have accused his 58 division of grave violations of human rights, President Sirisena in January appointed him Army Chief of Staff. In her March 2019 report to the UN Human Rights Council, the High Commissioner referred to the appointment then as a "worry-

ing development".

In its 2015 report, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights referenced many alleged human rights violations linked to Mr. Silva's 58 Division, including intentional and indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Killinochchi, Puthukkudiyiruppu and Mullivaikkal in the Northern Province that amounted to "war crimes".

Setback to reforms

His appointment as Army commander now "severely compromises" Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability in the context of the Human Rights Council resolution of 2015 that Sri Lanka co-sponsored, "undermines reconciliation efforts" and "sets back security sector reform", Ms. Bachelet noted.

The appointment comes at a time when hope among Tamils, following the current government's pledge to ensure accountability, are fading. The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) said in a tweet that the installation of Mr. Silva as Army Commander

was "a serious affront to the Tamil people. We are deeply dismayed".

Colombo-based NGO Centre for Policy Alternatives said despite the gravity of allegations facing Mr. Silva, neither the previous nor the current government investigated them. "In fact, Major Gen. Silva's series of promotions demonstrates how these alleged violations appear to be rewarded," it said in a statement.

Following the development, the U.S. said it was "deeply concerned". "This appointment undermines Sri Lanka's international reputation and its commitments to promote justice and accountability, especially at a time when the need for reconciliation and social unity is paramount," it said.

The ban is part of a sweeping effort by President Donald Trump's administration to restrict Huawei, which officials claim has links to Chinese intelligence agencies and they're also required not to disclose that they are doing so," Mr. Ross said.

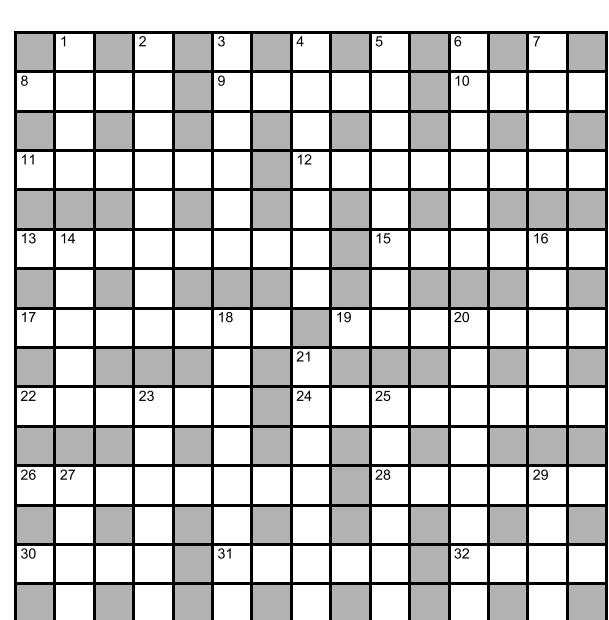
banned firms, taking the total to 10.

But the Commerce Department has extended a temporary license for U.S. companies to work with the Chinese firm and its subsidiaries for another 90 days.

"We are giving them more time to wean themselves off," Mr. Ross said on Fox Business Network, noting that the new deadline for implementing the ban is November 19.

"Technically Huawei says they're privately-owned company, but under Chinese law, even private companies are required to cooperate with the military and with the Chinese intelligence agencies and they're also required not to disclose that they are doing so," Mr. Ross said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12709



ACROSS

- 8 12 employees initially nap (4)
- 9 'Le Roi' sails around fuel replenisher at sea (5)
- 10 Middle Easterner's in Mercara building (4)
- 11 Corrected income tax following journalist's excessive deduction in the beginning (6)

(set by Incognito)

- 12 Bertha's choker (8)
- 13 Ex-PM's serial ID is misplaced (8)
- 15 Girl covered with shredded roses turns into a female monster (6)
- 17 India's "Most Wanted" hides gold in tree (7)
- 19 Engineer hits red and hesitates (7)
- 22 Married English priest in the middle of the week, perhaps (6)
- 24 US flag made of rolled gold leaf at first with additional gold? Yes! (3,5)
- 26 Pilot ordered a route around North America (8)
- 28 Chef in England initially makes biscuit (6)
- 30 Peck's damaged skis (4)
- 31 Flower in Canada is yellow (5)
- 32 Greek god rose awkwardly (4)
- DOWN
- 1 Supreme Being possesses nothing? That's fine! (4)
- 2 "Queue to meet Yama?", two heard agitatedly (5,3)
- 29 Press Club (4)

SUDOKU

		7				4		
6	2		1	2	8	5	7	
		9	5	3				
			2	4				
5		6	9	3				
	2	3			1	4		
1	6	4	5					
	4			9				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12708

D	O	S	A	M	P
M	I	S	P	A	S
I	S	L	H	R	L
T	A	G	E	R	N
P	R	O	S	C	E
E	E	S	N	I	
R	E	S	T	I	
L	E	M	G	M	
L	E	F	A	L	
L	E	G	M	O	
V	A	A	M	S	
S	E	C	D	M	
L	E	I	R	T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	6	5	1	3	9	7	8
8	5	3	7	9	4	1	6	2
1	7	9	2	6	8	5	4	3
6	8	7	1	2	5	3	9	4
3	1	2	9	4	7	8	5	6
5	9	4	3	8	6	7	2	1
7	6	5	8	3	2	4	1	9
9	2	8	4	7	1	6	3	5
4	3	1	6	5	9	2	8</	

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	37,402	-0.14
US Dollar	71.43	-0.40
Gold	38,570	-0.25
Brent oil	59.41	-1.19

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	357.40	-0.05
Asian Paints	1586.45	-11.00
Axis Bank	685.00	9.35
Bajaj Auto	2725.50	-25.45
Bajaj Finance	7376.65	-62.75
Bharti Airtel	361.00	-0.55
BPCL	347.00	-4.20
Britannia Ind	2478.40	-21.05
Cipla	475.85	-0.25
Coal India	198.95	-3.00
Dr Reddy's Lab	2509.10	16.55
Eicher Motors	16337.70	-262.75
GAIL (India)	127.30	-2.35
Grasim Ind	732.35	-19.90
HCL Tech.	1064.05	1.30
HDFC	2114.05	14.05
HDFC Bank	2206.85	-20.85
Hero MotoCorp	2631.50	-37.50
Hindalco	181.15	1.35
Hind Unilever	1820.90	-7.75
Indiabulls HFL	536.85	-13.90
ICICI Bank	423.40	4.45
IndusInd Bank	1442.50	3.40
Bharti Infratech	255.30	6.10
Infosys	777.65	3.10
Indian Oil Corp	125.80	-0.45
ITC	251.55	-1.45
JSW Steel	226.20	-0.95
Kotak Bank	1496.35	-2.60
L&T	1352.20	16.95
M&M	520.55	-7.30
Maruti Suzuki	598.55	7.50
NTPC	118.90	1.10
ONGC	126.30	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	207.05	-4.10
Reliance Ind	1292.60	14.60
State Bank	286.85	-4.05
Sun Pharma	426.00	11.30
Tata Motors	120.80	-0.55
Tata Steel	359.55	-3.50
TCS	2163.00	-2.10
Tech Mahindra	670.35	11.35
Titan	1088.95	13.15
UltraTech Cement	4158.15	-49.85
UPL	542.05	-7.00
Vedanta	144.30	-0.10
Wipro	252.10	2.90
YES Bank	76.65	-2.80
Zee Entertainment	348.05	1.45

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.23	71.55
Euro	79.09	79.45
British Pound	86.35	86.75
Japanese Yen (100)	66.83	67.13
Chinese Yuan	10.10	10.15
Swiss Franc	72.65	72.99
Singapore Dollar	51.43	51.68
Canadian Dollar	53.70	53.94
Malaysian Ringgit	17.04	17.15

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	47.6	(48)
22 ct gold (1g)	3584	(3583)

Source: Indian Bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Leading food and beverages company Nestle India is hopeful of tackling the general economic slowdown being faced by several sectors, said a top official. "From a modest double-digit growth, we are expecting a decent single-digit growth for the current year," said Suresh Narayanan, chairman and managing director, Nestle India Ltd.

Price hikes
"Yes, the situation is bad. But it is not like other sectors. There could be some selective price hikes," he said.

According to him, currently Nestle India was in a better position than other

Mood of gloom and doom won't help, says Das

Growth is our highest priority, says RBI Governor; welcomes move by banks to link fresh loans to repo rate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Amid the slowdown in economic activity, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das urged businesses not to be pessimistic, while acknowledging headwinds, and reiterated that growth was the central bank's highest priority.

"I would appeal to the leaders of business and financial sector fraternity, it is the sentiment which is important. Please look at the opportunities ahead of us," Mr. Das said at a seminar organised by industry body FICCI and IBA. "We do realise that there are challenges, there are difficulties coming from external and domestic sources. But I think one has to look at the opportunities, one has to maintain a posi-

tive sentiment and capitalise on this opportunities. Because the mood of doom and gloom is not going to help anyone," he said. The RBI Governor reiterated that growth was the highest priority for the central bank. RBI has reduced the repo rate by 110 bps since February to support growth with inflation staying under control.

"At this particular juncture, growth is a matter of highest priority," he said, adding that the issues of financial stability also assumed importance.

He said the headwinds to financial stability could emanate from various sectors of the economy – the credit market, financial markets, external sector and payment system. On the issue of head-



Positive vibes: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das addresses a session at the FIBAC 2019, in Mumbai on Monday. ■ PTI

winds from the credit market, particularly from non-banking finance companies. Mr. Das said it would be the RBI's endeavour not to allow any large, systemically important NBFCs to fail. "We

are monitoring the various developments that are happening. We have a system of monitoring top NBFCs, about 50-odd, including housing finance companies...they are constantly being

monitored," he said. "It is our endeavour to ensure that there is no collapse of a large or systemically important NBFC." In October last year, infrastructure conglomerate IL&FS defaulted on a series of payments which led the government to replace the existing board with a new one and started a resolution process through asset mone-

that they should move faster...it is a positive trend. But this process needs to be faster. The economy needs a certain kind of push not only from monetary policy but also from its transmission," Mr. Das said.

The RBI Governor said that he expected the government to infuse capital in the public sector banks at the earliest for not only meeting regulatory requirement but also to fund growth.

"Our expectation is that the ₹70,000 crore capital that has been provided by the government for public sector banks will be released at an early date, will be released upfront. This will not only be a requirement for regulatory compliance but also meet growth capital needs."

DTC panel submits report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government-appointed task force set up to formulate a new direct tax code to replace the existing Income Tax Act submitted its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

However, the details of the report and its recommendations have not been made public. "Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman received the report submitted by Akhilesh Ranjan, Convenor of the Task force constituted by the Government to draft New Direct Tax Law, in New Delhi today," the Ministry of Finance tweeted on Monday.

Since the Direct Tax Code is to replace the Income Tax Act, which was enacted in 1961, tax experts expect a wide variety of changes to be brought in to modernise India's direct tax system.

Deadline extended

The task force, then under Arbind Modi was initially supposed to submit its report by May 31 but the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley gave it a two-month extension to complete the exercise.

The Finance Ministry, had in November 2018, appointed Akhilesh Ranjan, Member (Legislation) of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, as the convenor of the task force following the retirement of Mr. Modi.

The other members of the task force include Girish Ahuja, a chartered accountant, Rajiv Memani, chairman and regional managing partner of EY, Mukesh Patel, a tax advocate,

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, she said Indian wealth creator entrepreneurs would be given all kind of support.

PV sales continue downhill ride

Demand remains quite weak across segments, geographies, says FADA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Retail sales of passenger vehicles (PVs) fell by 11% last month to 2.43 lakh units compared with the almost 2.75 lakh units sold in July 2018, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

The data showed that two-wheeler retail sales declined by 5% to 13.32 lakh units against the 14.03 lakh units in the year-ago month.

Commercial vehicle (CV) sales dropped by 14% to 23,118 units against 26,815 units in July 2018.

Three-wheeler sales, however, grew 3% to 55,850 units in July 2019, against 54,250 units in the same month a year ago.

Total sales across cate-

Motown loses mojo

Category	July 2019#	July 2018#	YoY (%)
2 wheelers	13,32,384	14,03,382	-5
3 wheelers	55,850	54,250	3
CV*	23,118	26,815	-14
PV**	2,43,183	2,74,772	-11
Total	16,54,535	17,59,219	-6

*CV numbers reflect data from 833 RTOs comprising 56.20% of total number of RTOs.
**Beginning July 2019, LPV category has been included in PV
#Number of units

SOURCE: FADA RESEARCH

ries declined by 6% to about 16.54 lakh units in July 2019 against the over 17.59 lakh units in July 2018.

Consumer sentiment and overall demand continued to be quite weak across all segments and most geographies. July sales continue

to be in the negative zone year-on-year. Although, some respite is seen with the growth in MoM (month-on-month) numbers which is mainly due to the revival of the monsoon bringing in some positivity and also [with] June having the se-

ond lowest volume base this calendar year after February," FADA president Ashish Harsharaj Kale said.

While PV sales rose 7% over June 2019, two-wheeler sales rose 4% and that of three-wheeler 21%. However, CV sales saw decline month-on-month as well with sales falling 19%.

FADA said the steps taken by PV makers had helped cut inventory to almost the ideal 21-day level. However, CV and two-wheeler inventory continues to be "very high."

Stating that with the weakness in demand, especially for CVs, the current inventory is a worry for the dealers, especially given the impending transition to BS-VI being just six months away, FADA asked the OEMs to help regulate wholesale supplies.

In her maiden Budget last month, she had cut corporate tax rate for companies with annual turnover of up to ₹400 crore to 25% from 30% earlier.

Last year, the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had cut the corporate income tax rate to 25% for companies with a turnover of up to ₹250 crore.

Speaking at an industry event here, Ms. Sitharaman

Corporate tax will be cut gradually: FM

Says govt. will back wealth creators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said corporate tax rate for companies with over ₹400 crore turnover would be gradually cut to 25% and the government will support wealth creators.

In her maiden Budget last month, she had cut corporate tax rate for companies with annual turnover of up to ₹400 crore to 25% from 30% earlier.

They did not give a time frame for the reduction.

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, she said Indian wealth creator entrepreneurs would be given all kind of support.

said the corporate tax reduction for the rest of corporates would be gradual.

Projects at ₹3 lakh cr. capex may kick-start investment cycle, spur jobs: analysts

</



Theatre critic and writer Vikram Phukan is bringing his directorial debut to Delhi's Old World Theatre Fest this week

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Plays usually take about three months to put together, says theatre critic and writer Vikram Phukan, but his debut directorial play *Those Things Left Behind*, took "about 14 months of elapsed time to get ready for the stage," given its focus on movement.

Now five shows old, *Those Things Left Behind* is coming to Delhi this week, as part of the annual Old World Theatre Festival. The play, already widely-reviewed, is about Iranian asylum-seekers in the United Kingdom.

An incident that Phukan witnessed in his neighbourhood, during his time in the UK, seeded the thought to write about asylum-seekers: An Iranian-Kurdish man had stitched up his mouth, ears, and eyes shut, threatening to set himself on fire if his application for asylum was rejected.

"There are people who've left



countries and have the gumption to tear up their passports, but when we travel, we do it with a lot of careful documentation – that's the reason [political] boundaries are not sacrosanct," says Phukan. "[I was also interested in the] entire process of asylum-seeking, because it takes so long sometimes; you're in a limbo," he adds.

Ahead of the staging – they also have a private show scheduled at the Shiv Nadar University – Phukan spoke about the evolution of the play and how he thinks the Delhi audience might take to it. Edited excerpts.

The play was initially a monologue that evolved into a two-person act. Has the content changed too?

The text itself hasn't changed. We changed things around in the way the text is used – the text gave us clues. I wanted to work with movement, too. A lot of non-verbal action...where you lose a lot of text. That was the evolution in how the representation has changed.

Would you say the play is a political statement?

Well, it's a human exploration. The politics may come as part and parcel of it, when you're applying

OTHER PLAYS THIS WEEK

FAQER NIMAANA: The theatre-dance presentation pays tribute to the faqeer Shah Hussain by compiling his poems with the connective tissue of a script by Radhika Sood Nayak, Sanjukta Wagh, and Gita Chadha. Presented by beej theatre group, directed by Wagh. On August 21st,

HEAD 2 HEAD: An exploration of actors and their body-image, by using sections of Girish Karnad's *Hayavadana*. Presented by The Big Fat Company, directed by Shabari Rao. On August 24th.

PITAJI PLEASE: About the lie told to keep the love in a father-son relationship. Cast includes Swanand Kirkire, also known for his work as a lyricist in Bollywood. Presented by Ansh Theatre Group, directed by Makrand Deshpande. On August 25th.

Seeking asylum (Left) A scene from the play ; (below) Vikram Phukan

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for asylum, when you're gay. But that's not the point of view that I come from. I'm interested in how people think, how they live, who they are, what they do with their time, I'm interested in people, generally. You'd find the people in the play are ordinary people – with experiences, and shifts in points of view and temperament.

Do you have any insights on the audience in Delhi?

I've come to Delhi with other plays – like as a writer for Sunil Shanbag's *Stories in a Song*. There has been delirious support for those. When it comes to the human condition, and its exploration with a slightly politicised [underline] – and this is a sweeping statement – Delhi has that more, but in Bombay that doesn't happen quite as much.

How has your work in criticism shaped the directing of this play?

For me, they are compartmentalised areas of engagement with theatre. When I watch a play, I'm very different from when I'm writing one. But directing a play was eye-opening, because it showed me how much of an investment goes into creating even a moment on stage. Which is also very different from judging what is seen. Sometimes, this changes the way you look at a play.

Were there specific scenes through your directing experience that made you realise this?

There are scenes that seem simple on paper – like the first scene with the two men meeting for the first time. But there's a lot of energy and way of interacting, that every minute has to be calibrated. Especially since there are no instructions in the script. Everything has to be motivated within the impulses of the moment. There are a lot of natural emotions, which we needed to still amplify, for the stage. This first scene took a long time to crack.

August 22nd, 7:30 p.m., at India Habitat Centre. Tickets, upwards of ₹150 on Bookmyshow.com

#DELHIMOVES



Meet ANJU

Runner, garden-lover and cancer survivor; she runs as passionately as she nurtures her plants

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

"Cancer is a comma and not a full stop," says Anju Gupta, a spirited 64-year-old runner who lives in Dwarka, New Delhi. When she was diagnosed with advanced-stage breast cancer in January 2015, these words kept her strong through the gruelling treatment.

Anju was determined not to let the disease dictate her life. So in September 2015 she signed up for her first ever Pinkathon, a country-wide women's running event. By November 2015, she had managed

The spirited marathoner Anju Gupta (wearing a medal)

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

No crew. No cameras. Dutch filmmaker Andreas van de Laar on his journey filming India's innovators for his documentary, *One Point Seven*, on an iPhone

One-man army

NIDHI ADLAKHA

'In India, there's enough space for everyone's dreams'. These were the first words Andreas van de Laar was told by an Indian woman as he got on his flight to New Delhi from Amsterdam in 2017. All set to shoot an ambitious documentary on India's development across sectors, little did he know what the next year had in store for him.

"I was planning a big crew and funding but that never came through. A friend had gifted me a smartphone stabiliser/gimbal before I left to India and I felt that was going to be it. A one-man army with a phone," says Andreas, adding, "If not for that, I would have gone back home." Thus began the journey to *One Point Seven* – highlighting India's 1.7 billion citizens and their role in governing the growing democracy – that will be released on October 17th on Andreas's YouTube channel.

India-centric

Cut to the five-part documentary's second episode – aptly titled *The Urban Debate* – and it begins with a rather important statistic: By 2035, 17 of the 20 fastest growing cities in the world will be in India, with a few having populations larger than most countries. So, how do we effectively govern them? Such crucial questions are answered in the Dutch filmmaker's series inspired by *Jugaad Innovation*, a book that highlights frugal and flexible approach to innovation for the 21st Century.

"I came across the book on a backpacking trip to India in 2016 and realised that just having a perspective doesn't count. In order to solve problems, you have to understand them. Every country develops in its own way and we come from this US-centric vision of how the world should be. I wanted to highlight topics that were under exposed and I was curious how India would innovate and develop.

The people in the film are doing really important stuff and making a difference is very important in my work," says Andreas, who also wanted to "change the perception people have about India as a phenomenon in the 21st Century".



A realistic view Andreas van de Laar, and stills from his documentary, *One Point Seven*

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who also wanted to "change the perception people have about India as a phenomenon in the 21st Century".

Featuring 40 influential Indians such as Sunita Narain, Narayana Murthy, Kiran Majumdar and Siddhartha Benninger and Shashi Tharoor, it investigates India's development in the areas of urban development and governance, healthcare, education and agriculture. Andreas, who worked as a journalist in Amsterdam, started the process by researching India's innovators and shooting emails to the people he wanted to speak to. He says his focus was on "getting a hold of the Indian pulse". While a lot came from the book, he followed trends on social media, spoke to people and identified politicians with solution-based views: "80% of the outcome came from my research and 20% is based on recommendations by friends in India," adds the 30-year-old.

Tough calls

But the road to creating the series wasn't easy. Before he could start recording, his shooting device – an iPhone 7 plus – was stolen in New Delhi, where he was also facing issues finding a house. Andreas then left for Pune, bought an iPhone SE and shot the entire film on that. "People were expecting me with cameras and a big crew, but here I showed up with just a phone. They thought it was funny," he laughs, adding how many personalities like Sunita Narain were keen to learn more about the device. The idea then, he says, became all about creating as much value with the least resources – "just like India's innovators".

One would think getting people on board and travelling across the country would be taxing. For Andreas, however, it was the funding process which was the longest and most stressful part of his journey. "The Dutch Embassy agreed to support the post-production. But the process took a year and I had also started a crowd-funding campaign. At that time, I went to Bir, Himachal Pradesh, and decided to cut the wait short and edit it myself. It was only then I made the decision that it wasn't going to be a film but a documentary."

"When the funding did come through late last year, a major chunk went to his high school friend, Zeger de Vos, who composed the film's music and worked on the sound design.



LIFE IN INDIA

Andreas' experience of travelling in India was in stark contrast of what he had heard from friends and seen in the media. "I was told about the country's poverty, rape cases, warned that I would fall sick, etc. But during my 2016 trip, I had a great time and met some warm and genuine people. They gave me the confidence to come back and work on a project. I feel at home in Mumbai, Bir and Pune. I love the coffee!" There's something he misses, however: cycling through the city, like he does back in Amsterdam. "In India, it's just cabs and auto rickshaws, which isn't healthy."



Vos, who composed the film's music and worked on the sound design.

On the road

After hosting screenings in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Manipal and Chennai, Andreas plans to take the film to New Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad and Udaipur. Post the documentary's release in October, Andreas looks forward to travelling to the Northeast and the Andaman islands and then take the film to the US for screenings. While he's tight-lipped about the next documentary he's researching, all he reveals is it is based in Europe. "My job as a documentary filmmaker is to change and question stereotypes, and give people a more realistic view of what's going on. *One Point Seven* has made me aware of the fact that there's a lot more to explore and I am now sure that I won't settle in Amsterdam. I will go back for lectures and speaking engagements to teach people about India."

PRODUCT

Conscious carpets

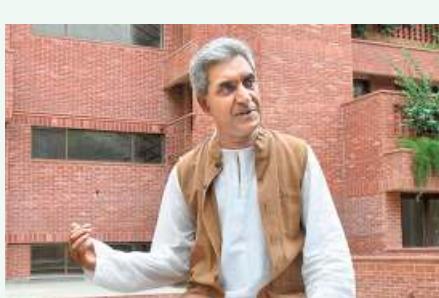
The Zambezi rug, in ivory and charcoal, by the Rug Republic, is made from used bicycle tubes and recycled water bottles. It is woven on pit looms (where the loom is fit in a pit and the weaver uses pedals) and buddies up with outdoor furniture.



Available at therugrepublic.in; ₹1,500 (for size 160 cm x 230 cm)

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Music appreciation

Noted musician and Principal of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Pandit Madhusudan Mudgal will be in conversation with journalist Ranjith Sahay this evening. Pt. Mudgal will present his personal musical journey, interweaving it with the growth and development of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, the classical dance and music school.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



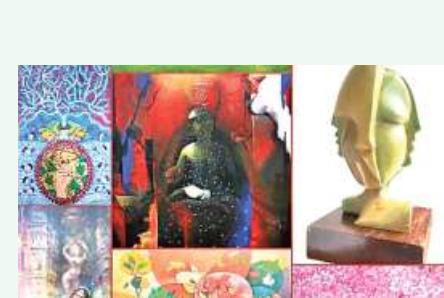
CUISINE

New menu

Chutney, Bar + Tandoor, a pan-Indian restaurant, has a new menu. Guests can choose from dishes like Quinoa Cauliflower Chowder, Matcha Yakhni, Karele ki Shammi, Bharwan Aloo Tilnaaz, Malai Santra Kebab, Gazab ka Tikka, Chicken Dhansak, Chicken Gassi, Pomfret Dum Masala, Rogan Gosht Biryani, and more.

VENUE: Metropolitan Hotel, Bangla Sahib Road

TIME: 12 noon-3 p.m. and 7-11:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Group show

The ongoing exhibition, *Master Strokes 2019* is a group show of paintings by 31 artists which include Aarti Malhotra, Bharati Arya, Chandana Bhattacharya, Jatin Chaudhary, Kamal Devnath and Kiran Soni. Curated by Kishore Labar, the show depicts the artists' creativity in vibrant colours, bold strokes, and fine lines.

VENUE: Visual Arts Gallery, IHC

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



GIG

Nikhil Swaroop live

The Piano Man, Gurugram, is hosting Nikhil Swaroop live music tonight. A singer-songwriter with over half a million video views across various social media platforms, Nikhil, accompanied by powerhouse vocalist Phrodie, will perform originals and unique covers of artists ranging from Coldplay to Ed Sheeran.

VENUE: The Piano Man, Sector 15, Gurugram

TIME: 9 p.m.



THEATRE

Dance drama

Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra presents the 43rd edition of its dance drama, *Krishna*, portraying the life of Lord Krishna. Produced and directed by Shobha Deepak Singh, the production explores the fascinating journey of the playful icon from his childhood to his youth over a span of three thousand years.

VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House,

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



The future in A SKETCH

With the animation industry growing at a rapid rate, how does Cosmos-Maya integrate technology and storytelling, without compromising on the quality of content?

SRIVATSAN S

A nine-year-old Ankush's life changes when he meets a mysterious character called Bajrangi, modelled after the Indian God Hanuman. Bajrangi not only helps Ankush deal with his inner fears, but also teaches him life lessons. This is the premise of the animated series *Selfie with Bajrangi*, whose quintessential 'Indianness' may look preposterous on paper, but has achieved popularity among children. The show runners are Cosmos-Maya, best known for creating the animated sitcom *Motu Patlu*, the Indian *Laurel and Hardy*.

What started as a service studio in 1996 has grown into becoming one of the leading animators in the country. Since 2012, Cosmos-Maya became an Intellectual Property

(IP) creation company with over 14 shows and 2,000-plus episodes. What explains the company's longevity? Over an email interview, Anish Mehta, CEO of Cosmos-Maya, attributes the success to the evolving business model.

"Fresh content is a great contributory factor here. Novelty and relatability are two aspects you will find in all our IPs. Our shows air in more than 150 countries worldwide. The latest and biggest evolutionary leap is our entry into third-party distribution, which we are aggressively pursuing."

From a business perspective, what determines the success of series like *Selfie with Bajrangi* or *Guddu*? Is it the programming strategy or the numbers with which they gauge their target audience? The secret sauce, according to Anish, is "the ability to

speak to viewers in the universal language of relatability". He goes on to add: "In a world where success is determined by rating points, I believe that success depends on the impact that the show leaves on the audience." In terms of the investment for an average animated series, Anish says that the scale is much lesser in India compared to other Asian markets like Korea and China. Without getting into actual numbers, he adds that the cost is anywhere between US\$1.5-2.5 million for 52 X 11 episodes.

Lack of creativity

The Indian animation industry operates in a restricted environment (read: kid-friendly content) and the market is plagued by its need to cater to children – arguably the reason why we are light years away from producing a high-concept animated series like Netflix's *BoJack Horseman*, which has a reasonably good fan following among Indian millennials. Anish says that Cosmos-Maya has managed to identify this alarming gap and senses a potential opportunity, thanks to the influence of Hollywood movies, the opening of digital market and the audience's maturity.

There are several untapped markets in the country, he agrees. One such being cinema. Scores of independent VFX companies have been working closely with major studios in Hollywood. Yet, Indian cinema hasn't produced a single memorable animated feature which indicates the lack of fresh content in Indian cinema. It is also partly because the animation industry continues to depend on mythology for formida-



The next step Cosmos-Maya CEO Anish Mehta plans to use VR to embellish his content

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SECRETS OF AN ILLUSIONIST

Anish Mehta believes that "international co-productions are the way forward". Cosmos-Maya currently has four Italian co-productions including *Leo Da Vinci*, *Berry Bees*, an Italian-Australian-Irish co-production, *OPS* and *Atchoo!*.

The company has tied up with Studio 100 France for the upcoming *Galactic Agency*.

WowKidz, according to Anish, has registered over 12 billion views, giving us a picture about the company's digital penetration.



ble narratives. In fact, Cosmos-Maya's feature film *Motu Patlu: King of Kings* did not do well unlike as opposed to its cartoon series. If this poses a threat to the animation industry, how do they overcome it? Anish says, "Storytelling is evolving and *Baahubali* has proved it. It's a matter of time for animation to get there."

Paper to pixels

Cosmos-Maya gained a strong digital presence with WowKidz, an umbrella channel consisting of over 30 animated programmes with over 25 million subscriptions so far. Anish Mehta observes that there is a significant change in the consumption pattern of the audience, thanks to the emerging popularity of large-scale, video-on-demand services. With regards to the rising production quality on streaming services he elaborates, "This bodes well for content creators as there will be more touchpoints for the final consumer to reach our library... People are now more open to linear kind of stories and the length of the show is not that big a restriction."

Cosmos-Maya also has plans to exploit the potential of Virtual Reality, which is gradually seeping into the animation industry. But right now, Anish Mehta is optimistic about its future impact, "We will be foraying into VR soon. The business for VR in India is being analysed and the current trends paint a good picture."



PEANUTS



POOCH CAFE



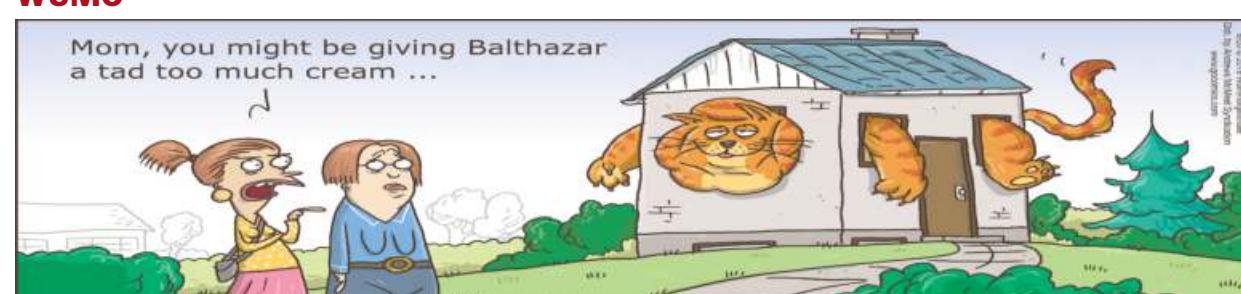
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



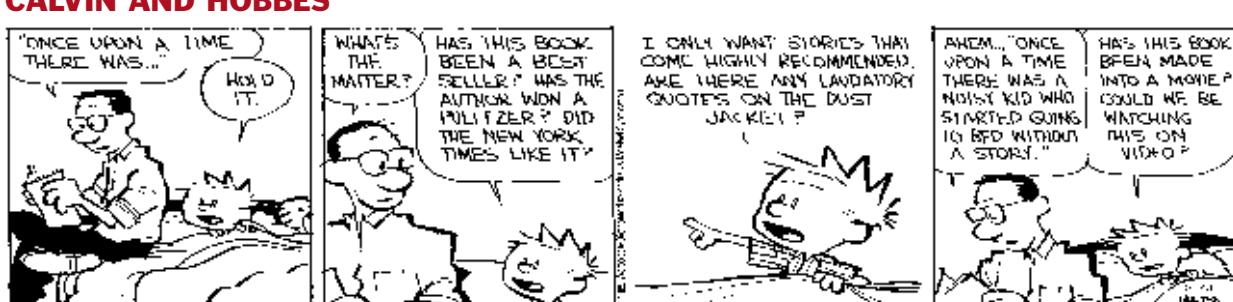
WUMO



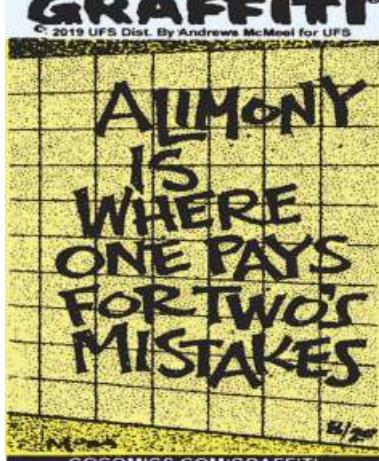
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



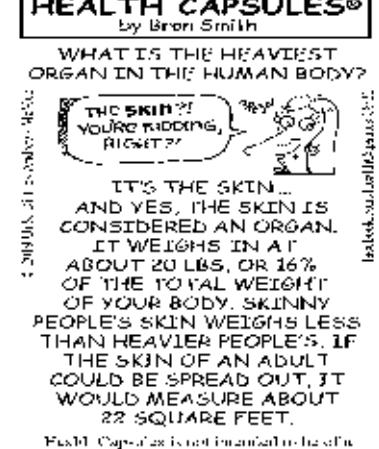
CALVIN AND HOBBES



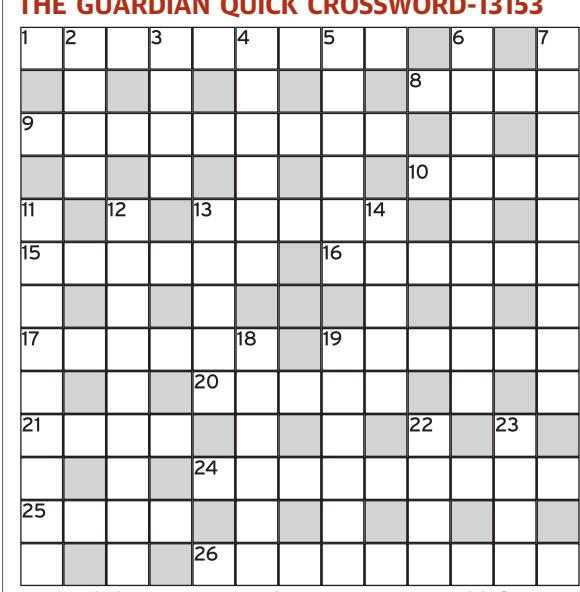
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13153



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- 5 Inconsistent in quality (6)
- 6 Type of carpet – a bold Moor (anag) (9)
- 7 Type of pasta (9)
- 11 Rather poorly (3,6)
- 12 Very poorly (2,1,3,3)
- 13 Change (5)
- 14 French river (5)
- 18 Charity sale of many different things (6)
- 19 Densest of all naturally occurring metallic elements, Os (6)
- 22 In that case ... (2,2)
- 23 Lake – French mother (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 21, 2019.

Solution No. 13152

T	E	A	R	O	F	F	A	S	T	R	I	P
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R	A	I	S	E	H	L	T	O	G			
O	A	T	K	L	E	H						
S	I	C	K	A	S	A	P	A	R	O		

- 20 Elevate (5)
- 21 Simple board game, involving dice (4)
- 24 Contented (9)
- 25 The Mormon state (4)
- 26 Brass instruments (9)
- Down
- 2 River flowing through Shakespeare's Stratford (4)
- 3 Elephant in a song (6)
- 17 Old and dusty spider's trap (6)
- 19 Walking (2,4)
- 4 Golf score of one stroke under par (6)

Indian men off to a winning start

Srikanth, Sai Praneeth and Prannoy make the second round; Meghana-Poorvisha pair also advances



Well begun is... B. Sai Praneeth dispatched Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in straight games in the opening round on Monday. ■ FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Ball set rolling to pick support staff

Interviews being held for India batting and bowling coach

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

The national selection panel kicked off a four-day procedure to appoint support staff members of India's men's cricket team by interviewing 18 candidates on Monday, combined for the batting and bowling coach positions.

Four of the five national selectors – chairman M.S.K. Prasad, Sarandeep Singh, Gagan Khoda and Jatin Paranjape – assembled at the BCCI headquarters in the morning and continued to interact with aspiring candidates for the batting and bowling coach positions. *The Hindu* understands that the selectors interacted with 13 candidates for the batting coach's position while five appeared for the bowling coach role.

Ten candidates appeared in person at the BCCI headquarters, which included Lalchand Rajput, Pravin Amre, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Shitanshu Kotak, Amol Muzumdar and Vikram Rathour (for batting coach) and Venkatesh Prasad, Subroto Banerjee, Amit Bhandari and Paras Mhambrey (bowling).

Sanjay Bangar, the incumbent batting coach whose retention is uncertain, is the only remaining candidate to be interviewed

coaches, were interviewed through a video link.

Despite the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) demanding it to be included in the support staff appointments, the BCCI decided to stick to the rulebook. As a result, only the national selectors were involved in conversing with the candidates.

Should the selectors feel, Prasad will informally seek the views of the CAC besides the head coach Ravi Shastri and captain Virat Kohli.

It is also understood that all the incumbent support staff members of the Indian team who are in the West Indies will be interviewed on Tuesday, a day after the end of the tour game, ahead of the opening Test.

Various posts

The selectors will continue to interview almost a hundred candidates for various posts till Thursday. The interviews will be conducted for batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach, administrative manager, physiotherapist and strength and conditioning coach.

BCCI promises all help to J&K



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Jammu and Kashmir cricket mentor Irfan Pathan on Monday said the BCCI has promised all help after the team was forced to pull out of the Vizzy Trophy due to the communication clampdown there.

"Hopefully, this won't have an impact in the upcoming season. From what I have spoken to the BCCI, they are ready to help in any way. It is quite possible that things will be normal again and we may not need to move anywhere," Pathan said. "We (the Jammu and Kashmir team) are not going for the Vizzy Trophy."

"We tried to send the boys to play the tournament as preparation is necessary, but could not make it," said Pathan.

My heart skipped a beat: Archer

England unchanged for third Test as Anderson is still not fit

LANS

LONDON

England's Jofra Archer says he breathed a sigh of relief when former Australia skipper Steve Smith got up after being hit on the neck by a bouncer bowled by him on the fourth day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's.

Archer clarified that hurting the batsman was never the idea. "It is never the plan. You are trying to get a wicket first. To see him go down, everyone stopped and everyone's heart skipped a beat," Archer said.

Archer lit up Lord's on his Test debut with some hostile fast bowling. He took five wickets across two innings and peppered the Australian batsmen with short deliveries that clattered against their helmets and bodies.

One of those forced Smith to retire hurt on Day 4 after the ball hit the prolific former Australia captain on the left side of his neck and he collapsed immediately. Smith eventually managed to recover and walk off.

While Archer earned praise from many quarters for his impact on the match and possibly the series,



Heart in his mouth! Jofra Archer says no one likes to see a player being stretchered off the field. ■ AP

there were some who chastised him for not showing enough concern for Smith when the latter was on the ground.

Meanwhile, England named an unchanged squad for its impact on the match and possibly the series,

BADMINTON WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BASEL

Indian shuttlers had a good day in office at the World Championships with the men's singles trio of K. Srikanth, B. Sai Praneeth and H.S. Prannoy advancing to the second round on Monday.

Former World No. 1 Srikanth, who has not won a title at the BWF World Tour in the last 22 months, staved off a spirited challenge from Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 17-21, 21-16, 21-6 in a match that lasted 66 minutes.

Praneeth, ranked 19th, who has been conferred with the Arjuna Award, defeated 66th-ranked Jason Anthony Ho-Shue of Canada 21-17, 21-16 in 39 minutes.

In another men's singles

first round match, World No. 30 Prannoy, who is on a comeback trial after recovering from a stomach problem, fought back to beat 93rd-ranked Eetu Heino of Finland 17-21, 21-10, 21-11.

Lin looms next

The former World No. 8 will next face Chinese legend Lin Dan, seeded 11th, in the second round. Prannoy had defeated Lin at the 2018 Indonesia Open and 2015 French Open.

India also got a favourable result in women's doubles with J. Meghana and S. Poorvisha Ram getting past Guatemala's Diana Corleto Soto and Nikita Alejandra Soto-major 21-10, 21-8.

P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who received a bye in the opening round, will start their campaign on Wednesday.

In another men's singles

Rahane gets some valuable runs

Vihari, too, comes good; warm-up game ends in a draw

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane got some much-needed runs under his belt ahead of the first Test as the visitors scored 188 for five in the second innings before their three-day warm-up game against West Indies-A ended in a draw here on Monday.

Rahane, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, made a fighting 54 off 162 balls before a reverse sweep led to his dismissal. Rahane, the stand-in captain in this game, had opened the innings after failing in the first essay.

Rahane and Hanuma Vihari had resumed the innings at 84 for one and both managed to score half-centuries. Vihari made 64 of 125 balls, with nine fours and



Finding his touch: Rahane made the most of the opportunity to open the innings, scoring a half-century. ■ FILE PHOTO

a six. The hosts finished at 47 for three in the second essay.

On Sunday, Ishant Sharma bowled a fiery opening spell while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav promised to pose stiff competition for Ashwin as India dominated proceedings.

India bowled out the

home team for 181 in 56.1 overs with Ishant (three for 21), Kuldeep (three for 35) and Umesh Yadav (three for 19) sharing the spoils.

The scores:

India 297 for five decl. and 188 for five decl. in 78 overs (Rahane 54, Vihari 64) drew with West Indies-A 181 in 56.1 overs and 47 for three.

CoA to bring out white paper on conflict of interest rules

Players present views at an interactive session

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

A group of experienced India cricketers presented their views to the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on the application of Conflict of Interest (CoI) rules at the BCCI headquarters here on Monday.

While former captain Dipak Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Parthiv Patel and Rohan Gavaskar attended the meeting in person, former captain Sourav Ganguly joined in via videoconferencing.

Dravid recuses

While Rahul Dravid – whose alleged CoI led to the meeting – recused himself, V.V.S. Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar, were also embroiled in the CoI conundrum, were reported to be indisposed.

With CoA chairman Vinod Rai being unable to attend the meeting, former India women's captain Diana Edulji and Lt. Col. (retd.) Ravindra Thodwe interacted with the cricketers for almost two hours.

Referring to the meeting as a "vibrant discussion", Edulji said the CoA would now prepare a white paper based on the discussion and forward it to amicus curiae P.S. Narasimha.

"A white paper will be prepared and we are trying our best to see what is best for cricket," Edulji told reporters after the meeting.

"Suggestions were sought



A time to debate: (Clockwise from top left) Ajit Agarkar, Diana Edulji, Parthiv Patel, Venkatesh Prasad, Sanjay Manjrekar and Rohan Gavaskar arrive at the BCCI HQ in Mumbai on Monday. ■ PTI

"We don't want to hamper anybody, but stay within the rules. And, as and when the Supreme Court decides, the amendments will be down the line for everybody."

The Hindu understands that the cricketers sought relaxation in the CoI rules pertaining primarily to running coaching academies besides working for a State association on a coaching assignment or as commentator for matches in India.

"Suggestions were sought and we spoke about former

players, current players and what is happening now. And it was a long and good discussion.

"The players explained the whole thing and the decision-makers have heard us," said Irfan, Jammu & Kashmir player-cum-coach and also a commentator.

Thorn in the flesh

It will be interesting to see if the CoI issue, which has emerged as a thorn in the flesh of Indian cricket, can be amicably resolved in the near future.

Saini asked to stay back in WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Impressed with his skillset, the Indian team management has decided to keep speedster Navdeep Saini as a net bowler for the two-Test series against the West Indies, aiming to groom him for future red-ball assignments.

"Navdeep Saini has been asked to stay back by the team management for the Test series. He will stay back primarily as a net bowler. They want to groom him for Test format keeping an eye on the future," a senior BCCI official said on Monday.

Saini, in fact, bowled six overs during the West Indies-A first innings in the ongoing practice match.

"He has performed well in red ball cricket for the past few years. He has the pace, and ability to hit the deck, move the ball both in the air and off the pitch.

"If he is groomed well, it will only increase our pool of fast bowlers for the top-tier cricket. That's how the team management is looking at him," the official said.

"The players explained the whole thing and the decision-makers have heard us," said Irfan, Jammu & Kashmir player-cum-coach and also a commentator.

Thorn in the flesh

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corner in a do-or-die raid.

Naveen faked touching a defender and eventually got away with a touch when Harendra got duped and rushed to tackle him. Steelers got to 15-8.

Steelers led 16-8 at the break.

Chand Singh, Ravi Kumar and Kandola pulled off a super tackle on U Mumba's M.S. Athul for Steelers to extend the lead to 25-17.

U Mumba inflicted an all out on Steelers, putting out the lone raider K. Selvamani, to get to 23-26.

First, Steelers' Prashanth Kumar Rai was held, then U Mumba's Arjun Deshwal. Steelers trailed 2-4 then.

Super raid

They were followed by Kandola's super raid – he put out Rohit Balyan, Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar – in the sixth minute as Steelers went up 5-4. With that raid, Kandola went past 50 raid points this PKL season.

Later, U Mumba's Fazel Atrachali went past 400 PKL tackles.

From 8-8, Steelers got to 14-8 when Arjun stepped on to the lobby, trying to touch the defender in the far left

Yuvraj calls Akhtar's 'bluff'



The true story: Yuvraj has revealed what Akhtar tells a batsman after felling him. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh on Monday reminded Shoaib Akhtar how he would warn batsmen while checking on them after nasty bouncers following the ex-Pakistan pacer's criticism of Jofra Archer's conduct in the Ashes.

Akhtar, on Sunday, slammed Archer for not showing the basic courtesy of checking on Smith after the Australian was felled by his bouncer during the second Ashes Test in London.

In response, Yuvraj wrote, "Yes, you did! But your actual words were 'hope you're alright, mate, because there are a few more coming.'"

Wet outfield prevents play

DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL

BENGALURU

A wet outfield forced play to be abandoned on the third day of the Duleep Trophy match between India Green and India Blue, at Just Cricket ground here on Monday.

Though there was no rain on the day, the outfield re-

Manish and Shreyas to take turns at the helm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Manish Pandey will lead India-A in the first three one-day matches against South Africa-A, while Shreyas Iyer will take over for the fourth and fifth matches.

All matches – on August 29, 31, Sept. 2, 4 and 5 – will be played at the Sports Hub, Kariavattom. The all-India senior selection committee met in Mumbai on Monday to pick the

TV PICKS

Badminton: World championships, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 p.m.
KPL: Star Sports 3, 3 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Johnson becomes MCC honorary life member

LONDON Former Australia pace spearhead Mitchell Johnson has been elected honorary life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the club announced on Sunday. Johnson has played 73 Tests for Australia and claimed 313 wickets at an average of 28.40. Johnson made his debut in 2005 and hung up his boots in 2015. He was a part of Australia's two successful World Cup triumphs in 2007 and 2015. He also played 153 ODIs, picking up 239 wickets, and 30 T20Is in which he claimed 38 scalps. PTI

Two medals for Esow, best-ever show for India

NEW DELHI India's Esow Alben bagged two medals at the World junior track championships to help India register its best ever performance at a global cycling event. India won a gold, silver and bronze each to finish sixth in the medals tally. The trio of Esow, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh scripted history by grabbing a gold in the men's sprint event. Esow also won a silver in individual sprint. The 18-year-old also won the men's individual keirin bronze. PTI



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COLUMBUS (USA) Two bogeys on the back-nine pegged Anirban Lahiri back but the Indian golfer still finished tied-seventh at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, the first of the three events in the Korn Ferry Series Finals. He finished the final round on Sunday at one-under 70. Scottie Scheffler won the title after posting a final-round 4-under 67 for a total of 12-under 272. PTI



Anirban Lahiri finished tied seventh in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship.

LONDON Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich on Monday signed attacking mid-fielder Philippe Coutinho from Barcelona on a season-long loan deal which includes an option to buy. The Brazil international will spend the 2019-20 campaign with Bayern before a decision is made on a permanent transfer. According to a BBC Sport report, Barcelona has said Bayern will pay €8.5 million for the loan, while the option to buy stands at €120 million. IANS

BAYERN SEALS COUTINHO LOAN FROM BARCA

LONDON Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich on Monday signed attacking mid-fielder Philippe Coutinho from Barcelona on a season-long loan deal which includes an option to buy. The Brazil international will spend the 2019-20 campaign with Bayern before a decision is made on a permanent transfer. According to a BBC Sport report, Barcelona has said Bayern will pay €8.5 million for the loan, while the option to buy stands at €120 million. IANS

Golden Fortune wins feature in record time

HYDERABAD: Deshmukh-trained Golden Fortune (Ajeeth Kumar up) claimed the Xicca Plate, the main event, in a record time of Im, 51.55s on Monday. The winner is the property of M/s. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Champakal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss Niti N. Desai.

Victory Parade took the honours in the P.M. Dokdawala Memorial Plate with a course record time of Im, 24.65s. Trainer Deshmukh saddled two more winners on the day.

SUBRAMANYA BHARATI PLATE (2,000m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): MOSSAD (Afroz Khan) 1, Turf Emperor (Umesh) 2, Halo's Princess (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Dippy Dip (Ajeeth Kumar) 4, 4/3-4, 1/4-4 and 7/2, 2m, 7.94s, 39 (w), 8 and 6 (p), SHP: 13, FP: 33, Q: 14, Tla: 66. Favourite: Turf Emperor. Owner: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: A. Vatsala.

P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over,

DDCA ropes in Yashpal, Valson

The veterans have been tasked with finding a head coach for Ranji team

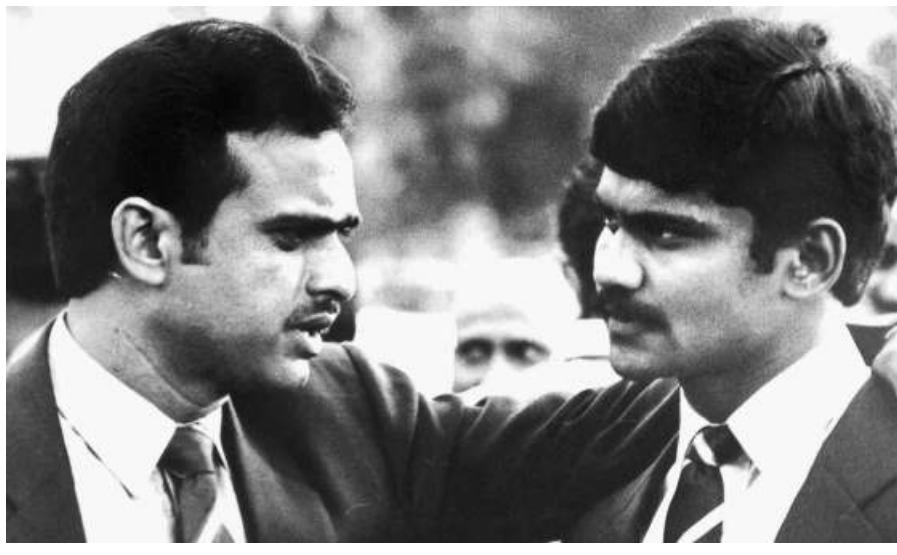
VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Yashpal Sharma and Sunil Valson, members of the 1983 World Cup winning team, have been entrusted with picking the head coach of the Delhi Ranji team. The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) announced their names on Monday to set in process the preparations for the forthcoming season.

The two-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will also recommend the names for the senior selection panel, which, in turn, will identify the support staff in accordance with the Board's new constitution.

Yashpal, who resigned as Punjab state selector in February, said, "I accepted the responsibility since it is an honour. It gives me a chance to serve the game. I have lived in Delhi and am well-versed with the talent pool and system. I am looking forward to the job."

Experience
Previously, Yashpal was associated with DDCA as selec-



Old hands: Yashpal Sharma and Sunil Valson's long association with cricket in Delhi should stand in good stead for DDCA. ■ THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

tor over two stints and also as an assistant coach.

"It is a job that comes with experience. In today's cricket, the head coach is an important part of the team and we have to ensure that the selectors are also men of credibility, who don't come under any pressure from any party."

Yashpal was also "thrilled" at the opportunity

to work with Valson. "He has tremendous knowledge of the game and has been a superb administrator with Delhi Daredevils. He brings a lot of experience to the job," Yashpal added.

For Valson, his association with DDCA continues, having been an under-19 selector and a member of the Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC) under the te-

nure of administrator Justice (Retd) Vikramajit Sen.

"It's all about Delhi cricket. I have played for Delhi for so long. It's about my commitment to the game in whatever way I can contribute and stay in touch with the game," said Valson.

The interviews for various posts in the senior and junior groups begin on Wednesday.

Winning start for Atletico

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga.

Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmeric run from Joao Felix.

After losing Antoine Griezmann to Barcelona, Atletico have spent close to €250 million this summer, just over half of that on Felix, whose lit up a disjointed contest.

The results: Alaves 1 (Maripan 54) bt Levante 0; Espanyol 0 lost to Sevilla 2 (Rodriguez 44, Nolito 86); Real Betis 1 (Moron 68) lost to Valladolid 2 (Guardiola Navarro 63, Plano 89); Atletico Madrid 1 (Morata 23) bt Getafe 0.

AITA's dialogue with ITF postponed

It will now be held on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has postponed the tele conference with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the security agency in Pakistan to find answers to the concerns of the players.

While ITF had insisted that security arrangements were satisfactory for the tie scheduled on September 14 and 15 in Islamabad, the AITA had listed a number of reasons including the worsening political situation between the two countries.

Hironmoy Chatterjee, secretary-general AITA, had reached the association headquarters here from his base in Kolkata for the conference. Indian Davis Cup team captain Mahesh Bhupathi was also scheduled to join the tele conference to find answers to the concerns of the players.

Prajnesh gets past Stebe

SPORTS BUREAU
WINSTON SALEM

Prajnesh Gunneswaran beat Cedrik-Marcel Stebe of Germany 6-3, 6-4 to set up a second round with top seed Benoit Paire of France in the \$807,210 ATP tournament.

In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan were beaten 6-3, 6-3 in the

pre-quarterfinals by Nicholas Monroe and Tennys Sandgren.

The results: \$807,210 ATP, Winston Salem, US: Singles (first round): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Gen) 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicholas Monroe & Tennys Sandgren (US) bt Rohan Bopanna & Divij Sharan 6-3, 6-3.

Waske for coaches workshop

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Germany's Alexander Waske, who has beaten stars like Rafael Nadal, Carlos Moya and Goran Ivanisevic among others, will be one of the guest speakers at the tenth National coaches workshop to be organised by the All India Tennis Association in Goa from September 20 to 23.

A former top-100 player, Waske has been running a academy in Germany after retiring in 2012. It has seen Indian trainees like Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Srinam Balaji.

Another speaker will be the former national head coach of Germany, Hans-Peter Born. As a coach, mentor, tutor and moderator, Born took care of coaches' education in Germany for 26 years.

He had coached top players like Angelique Kerber, Sabine Lisicki, Andrea Petkovic, Alexander Zverev, Rudi Molleker and Nicolas Kuhn.

Maxime Leblanc, a certified fitness coach and sports nutritionist from Europe, will be another speakers. He has the experience of working with basketball teams in France apart from track and field athletes.

Sports nutritionist Ryan Fernando, who has worked with double Olympic medallist and former World champion Sushil Kumar, cricketers Robin Uthappa, Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh and Pragyan Ojha among others, will also be addressing the conference.

More speakers for the workshop would be announced in due course of time by the AITA.

India clinches 12 medals

ANI
VRBAS (SERBIA)

The Indian junior women boxers on Sunday ended their campaign with a rich haul of four gold, four silver and four bronze medals at the third Nation's Cup here.

Tamanna, who claimed the 48kg gold, got the Best Foreign Boxer Award. Ambeshori Devi (57kg), Preeti Dahlia (60kg) and Priyanka (66kg) also won gold medals.

Other medallists: Silver: Anju Devi (50kg), Simran Verma (52kg), Manshi Dalal (75kg) and Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu (80kg). Bronze: Ashreya Naik (63kg), Neha (54kg), Khushi (70kg) and Afify Akram Khan Pathan (+80kg).

Anand holds Carlsen, stays ahead

SPORTS BUREAU
SAINT LOUIS

Viswanathan Anand retained his overnight half-point lead by drawing with top seed Magnus Carlsen in 45 moves in the second round of Sinquefield Cup chess tournament here on Sunday.

Draw on all other boards saw Anand leading the elite 12-player field with 1.5 points.

The results: Second round: Viswanathan Anand (1.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1); Anish Giri (Ned, 1) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 1); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1) drew with Wesley So (USA, 1); Shahriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 1) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 1) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 1); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 0.5).

DDA inter-school tennis tournament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

About 40 schools are scheduled to compete in the second DDA inter-school tennis tournament at the Siri Fort Sports Complex from August 20 to 24.

The tournament will feature boys and girls teams in the primary, middle school and secondary school categories.

League-cum-knockout

The teams will first play on a league basis in short formats featuring two singles and a doubles in each tie.

It will lead to teams qualifying for the knock-out phase.

In the first edition, the event had served as a fine initiative in giving a platform for talented school kids to get noticed and take their tennis forward with suitable guidance.

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

The TAKE Solutions Masters golf tournament will not be held this year.

Last year, the \$350,000 event - co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) - was held at the KGA course here.

H.R. Srinivasan, vice chairman & managing direc-

tor, TAKE Solutions Limited, explained, "This being an Asian Tour event, we had to

find a date suitable for both the Asian Tour and us. We

were unable to synchronise dates from a corporate and event standpoint."

Asian Tour associate director, communications, Calvin Koh, stated, "We are currently discussing possible new dates for the event,

No TAKE Solutions golf this year

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Ajay excited with Arjuna nod

KABADDI

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Ajay Thakur wasn't expecting his Padma Shri nomination in January. After all, no male kabaddi player had awarded it before.

"Never expected I will be the first (male) kabaddi player to get it," he said here on Monday.

On Saturday (Aug. 17), he was expecting to be nominated for the Arjuna Award. Yet, he was surprised when it was announced. "Really? I had no idea at all. I was checking my phone (for the news) till 4 p.m., but there was nothing," he had said in a post-match presser, having played and lost for Tamil Thalaivas in the ongoing ProKabaddi League.

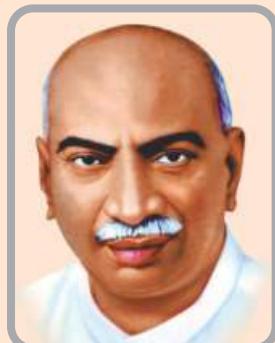
Not considered

"I've felt I've been eligible for four years now. Last year, we had failed (to get the gold) in the Asian Games; so, maybe the sports ministry thought kabaddi was a bit down and I wasn't considered.

Dad's inspiration

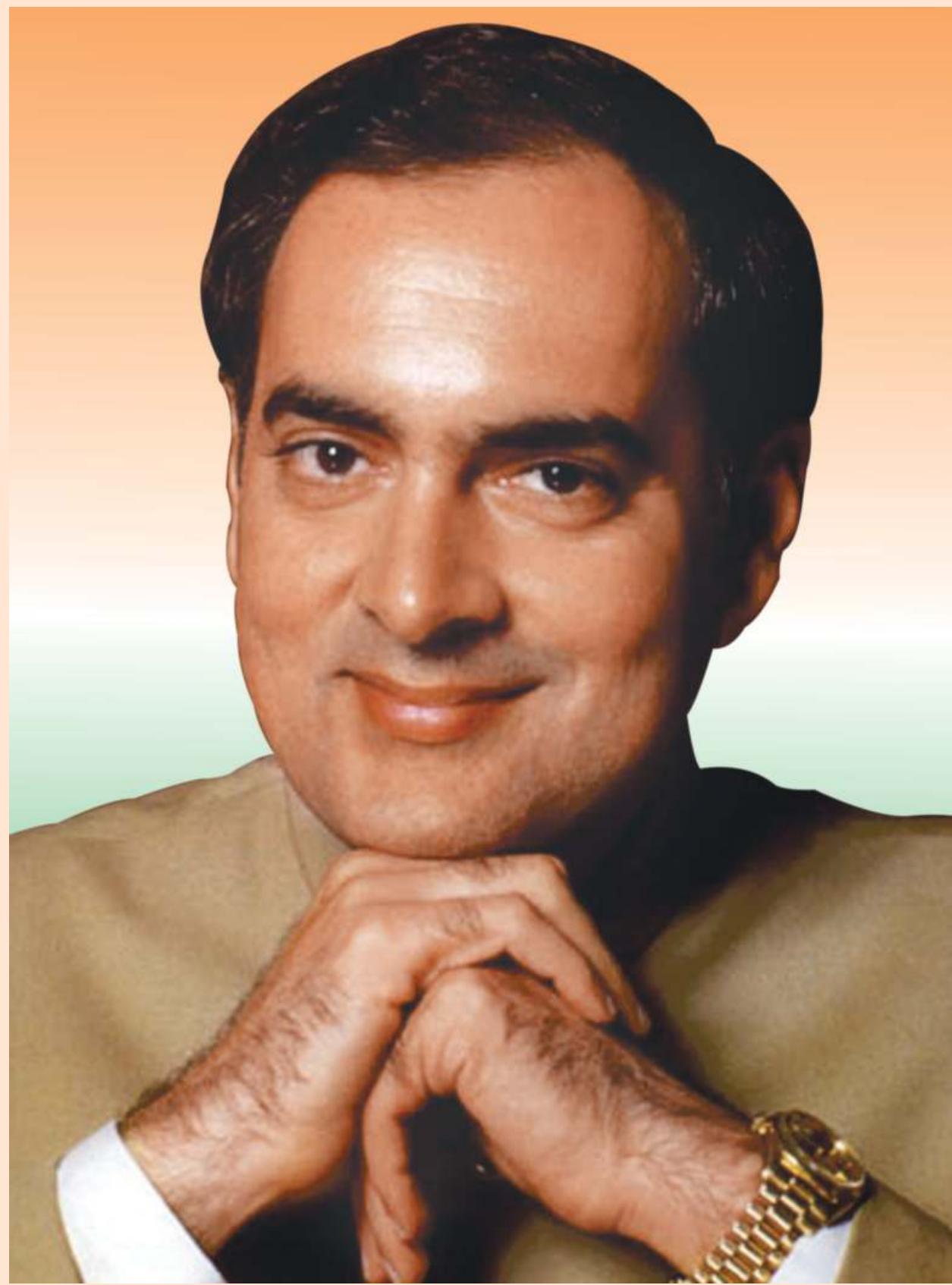
He was, then, inspired by his

father to follow his heart. "My father said: 'It's all about what you think and believe. If you believe you can play kabaddi, you should play. It's all about what your heart says.'



SALUTING THE VISIONARY! CELEBRATING THE LEGEND!

"And I have a dream, I dream of an India - strong, independent, self reliant and in the front rank of the Nations of the World."



**Remembering Shri Rajiv Gandhi,
the youngest Prime Minister of India,
on his 75th Birthday**

- The Architect of Panchayat Raj
- The Architect of empowerment of dalit women in panchayats and municipalities
- Making India an Information Technology hub
- The founder of the exclusive ministry for the protection of environment
- Launching India as an International Sports Arena through infrastructure development
- The savior of besieged Sri Lankan Tamils by air dropping food supplies through operation POOMALAI
- The beacon light of democratic resurgence by lowering voting age to 18
- The youngest Prime Minister India was bestowed with
- The introductory genius of a liberal economic policy
- The visionary of modern India
- The visionary of strong and self reliant India
- 100 days of employment for one member of every family in villages
- Right to compulsory education for students from 6 to 14 years with 25% reservation in private educational institutions
- Around 71 thousand crore agricultural debt waiver
- Implementing throughout India the Noon Meal Scheme introduced by Shri K. Kamarajar in Tamilnadu
- Education loan for students from ₹ 7 lacs to ₹ 14 lacs without security documents
- Awarding Semmozhi status to Tamil language
- Approval of Lokpal Bill
- Extending cash incentives of ₹12000 (₹ 4000 in 3 instalments) for pregnant women to consume nutritious supplements
- Introducing 108 Emergency Ambulance Service
- Introducing Women's Reservation Bill for 33% quota in Lok Sabha
- And many more Welfare Schemes for the people of India.



H. VASANTHAKUMAR, M.A.,

Member of Parliament from Kanyakumari Constituency
Working President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee

For more details: [f / Vasanthakumar](https://www.facebook.com/Vasanthakumar)



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Documentaries on Rajiv Gandhi on 20-08-2019

- "BHARADHATHIN VIDIVELLI RAJIV GANDHI" (Tamil) (Rajiv Gandhi - The shining star of India) at 10:00 AM
- "RATHTHAM SINDHIYA RAJIV GANDHI" (Tamil) (Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed his blood for India) at 12:00 Noon

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